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TheHighlander

Thursday July 30 2026 | Issue 750

INSIDE: MEET THE COUNTY'S NEW GYMNASTICS COACH PAGE 11 FREE

Doggone it... that's cute

Pam Strong is smitten with this Goldendoodle as she took part in puppy yoga at Reform+Restore in Haliburton Sunday (July 26). See more coverage on page 19. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Tourism steady but visitors spending less

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As Haliburton County hits the summer halfway mark, tourism traffic is keeping pace with 2025 numbers, but local businesses said tightening consumer budgets, rising wholesale costs, and unpredictable weather, are hitting profits.

County of Haliburton tourism manager, Angelica Ingram, told *The Highlander* in a recent interview that welcome centre visits and regional traffic are on par compared to last year's strong performance, despite a sluggish spring start across the region.

"Last year was a good summer, so if we can stay close to those numbers, we don't even need to surpass them," Ingram said.

While the tourism manager noted it's still early in terms of data, June was down slightly in visitors, but July has made up for that. She pointed to key events such as the Haliburton Art and Craft Festival and the Highlands Summer Festival, where *Anne of Green Gables* sold more than 90 per cent of available tickets.

"I think where we're at right now for summer visitors is making most of the businesses and the operators happy," Ingram said. "If we can maintain the consistency, that's great, and so far, we seem to be doing that."

To help entice visitor traffic during the current economic outlook, the County focused on shorter getaway promotions to lure people from southern Ontario. Ingram explained the County distributed about 12,000 copies of its explore map through *The Globe and Mail* on July 1, which resulted in a spike of phone calls to the tourism department with people asking about two-to three-night road trips.

But, despite steady foot traffic, retail businesses noted that overall visitor spending has become somewhat conservative.

"There are a lot of challenges right now... there is price sensitivity and challenges with input costs into businesses," Amanda Conn of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce told *The Highlander*.

Mathew Renda, co-owner of Boshkung Brewing Co., said he's seeing the economic shift play out firsthand. He said while there's been higher foot traffic at Boshkung Social in Minden, overall

Continued **'Gas'** on page 2

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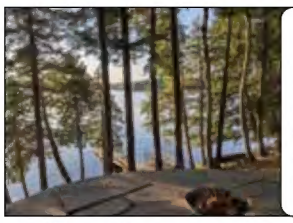

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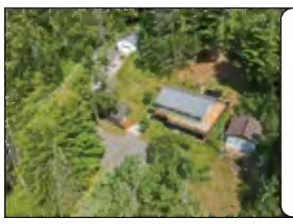

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A shopper browses a sale rack in downtown Haliburton on July 25. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

Gas price and weather impacts

Continued from page 1

transaction sizes are down.

"We're seeing more people, but they're just spending less," Renda said, adding the trend may partly be because of gas prices keeping cottagers closer to their properties. "Gas prices are kind of through the roof right now, and more people, I feel, are kind of hunkering down."

The wild weather has also played a role for many businesses.

At Algonquin Outfitters in downtown Haliburton, Scott Swaga said overall revenue is up, mainly driven by seasonal cottagers purchasing big-ticket water sports gear. He noted recent wildfire smoke temporarily slowed mid-week foot traffic.

Down the street at Redmans Records, the wet weather has helped boost sales as visitors look for indoor activities when the rain keeps them out of the lake. But with rising wholesale costs and shipping fees from distributors, the store owner said it's squeezing profit margins.

"Every single distributor has sent an email this year saying prices are being updated and going up," Kelsey Redman said. "I am focusing more now on used vinyl, used equipment, used instruments, because it's just not possible otherwise."

Businesses on the main streets of Minden and Haliburton are also navigating seasonal construction and parking restrictions as well as foot traffic disruptions from sidewalk upgrades. In response, small business owners are relying on organic cross-promotions, social media sharing, and word-of-mouth recommendations to keep customers moving through nearby stores.

"I kind of like the idea of businesses helping each other," Redman said. "It's nothing on paper, but we do often tell each other to go to each other's places, and I'll have other store owners come over for coffee, and they'll mention they send people here. And I'll mention I send people there all the time, too."

The County and business leaders are banking on shoulder-season events such as fall colour tours, the Studio Tour Haliburton Highlands, and Hike Haliburton to help sustain business momentum through the fall.

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Highlander news

Casey to stand in as Dysart deputy

By Mike Baker

Shortly after Dysart et al council appointed Pat Casey deputy mayor until October's municipal election, mayor Walt McKechnie criticized the mandated provincial process used to direct the township's next steps following the death of previous council figurehead, Murray Fearrey.

Addressing council Tuesday (July 28), McKechnie said it had been a difficult few weeks for elected officials and municipal staff still reeling from Fearrey's sudden death in May.

"I understand there's a Municipal Act, that this process here is supposed to be fair… but we're all still in shock and mourning of our dear friend," McKechnie said. "To put this on council's plate, to me, is unfair," he added, referencing the choice members had to make this week between Casey and Ward 2 coun. Nancy Wood-Roberts, who also put her name forward.

McKechnie said he wasn't a fan of the prolonged process, either. Since Fearrey's death on May 28, council has convened four times, with each meeting bringing a different step in the process.

On June 16, the mayor's seat was declared vacant. At council's June 23 meeting, CAO Tamara Wilbee provided a brief update to say nominations were open. McKechnie was appointed at a July 9 special meeting, with the deputy mayor seat officially vacated. It was finally filled at this week's meeting.

CAO Tamara Wilbee told council there are strict guidelines municipalities must follow when filling a seat vacated early in a term. Officials must first determine whether a seat is going to be filled through by-election or appointment, a process itself guided by timelines, and advertise publicly before proceeding.

Pat Casey was appointed Dysart et al deputy mayor for the final three months of the current term at Tuesday's (July 28) meeting. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

Because of the length of time it's taken to get to this point, Wilbee said there's no need to fill the seventh seat on council. The Municipal Act states any vacancy declared within 90 days of election day does not need to be filled. Tuesday was exactly 90 days until election day Oct. 26.

After Casey and Wood-Roberts each staked a claim for the temporary deputy mayor position, McKechnie said he would have been more comfortable choosing names from a hat than registering a vote.

"All the councillors here have so much respect for both of you. We've been together now for four years. I know there's not going to be any animosity, we all understand what we're doing here representing the municipality of Dysart… but, to me, this whole thing could have been done differently," McKechnie said.

Casey wins vote 4-2

With support from councillors Tammy Donaldson, Barry Boice and Carm Sawyer, Casey had a majority support. McKechnie backed Wood-Roberts.

After spending the past two County council meetings representing Dysart, Casey felt he was the right person to continue. He will contribute to upper-tier meetings Aug. 12, Sept. 9 and 23, and Oct. 14.

"I'm very passionate about everything that goes on here… deputy mayor is another stepping stone forward for me," Casey said.

"I'm well-grounded, have a good practical knowledge of pretty much everything that goes on here, in business and in the public… I know I'll do a good job, as I always have."

Wood-Roberts, who has already confirmed she isn't seeking re-election in October's vote, felt she was the more appropriate choice to see the current term through as deputy mayor given Casey's intent to run for mayor.

In a message to her fellow councillors before the vote, Wood-Roberts said, "I'm sure everyone has Dysart's best interest in mind, but I feel a unanimous vote to move coun. Casey into the role could potentially lead the public, misinform them, or potentially have sway on the upcoming election and that wouldn't be fair to the other candidates."

Thus far there are two other people in the race with Casey – entrepreneur Andrew Nowell and former Ontario land surveyor Greg Bishop. The nomination deadline for candidates considering a run is Aug. 21.

County of Haliburton council meets in new chamber

Warden Dave Burton had some opening remarks as County council met for the first time in its new council chambers at 12 Newcastle St. in Minden July 22.

"Wow, it's certainly nice to be here today … as you may have noticed things look a little bit different from when we used to meet across the road (at 11 Newcastle St). I'm extremely pleased with the looks and aesthetics, everything in the building," Burton said.

He added "thanks to the vision, and dedication, and hard work of our County CAO and staff, these new council chambers will now serve as home for our meetings, an important gathering place for discussion and decision-making, and collaboration."

He noted there was a wide range of accessibility upgrades, making the space "more inviting, inclusive and welcoming to all.

"On behalf of County council, I would sincerely like to thank everybody who helped to bring this vision to life, and we're grateful for the time, care and effort that went into creating this space that will benefit residents, staff, council, and our community partners."

Burton said they would hold an official grand opening at a later date when all of the work is completed in the building. (Lisa Gervais)

Warden Dave Burton has welcomed County council's new chambers. *File.*

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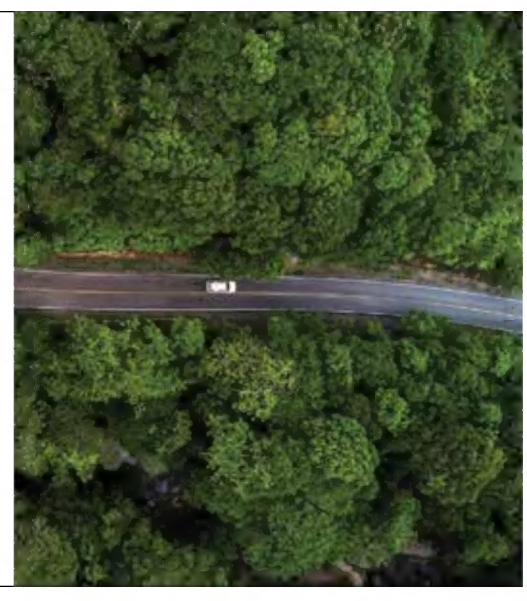

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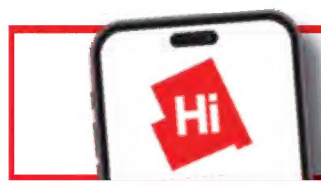

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Divided Minden Hills council defers strategic plan

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills council voted not to adopt the municipality's five-year strategic plan when it met last Thursday (July 23).

The decision followed a lengthy debate, and recorded vote. Voting against adopting were: councillors Ivan Ingram, Shirely Johannessen, Tammy McKelvey, and Bob Sisson. Mayor Bob Carter, deputy mayor Lisa Schell and coun. Pam Sayne were in favour.

In presenting the five-year plan, spanning 2026-2031, CAO Cynthia Fletcher said it was built on "comprehensive community engagement" in 2024-25.

"The strategic plan sets the priority areas of focus that will guide decision-making to achieve the long-term vision for the community. The plan is intended to be future-focused or aspirational and includes a clear vision for the future of Minden Hills," Fletcher said.

She added, "annual business and, or work plans and recommendations for resource investment will be built around the priority areas of focus and incorporate many of the ideas gathered through the engagement processes."

The strategic planning process was led by Karen Jones Consulting Inc. and drafted after talking to council, staff, residents, local businesses, and community organizations.

She said it is centred on four key priority areas: responsible growth and community well-being; visionary leadership; quality infrastructure and service; and fiscal responsibility and sustainability. Jones added external pressures, economic vulnerability, momentum and confidence were identified as risks.

Asked to adopt the report, Johannessen said she thought a strategic plan would be more effective at the beginning of a council term.

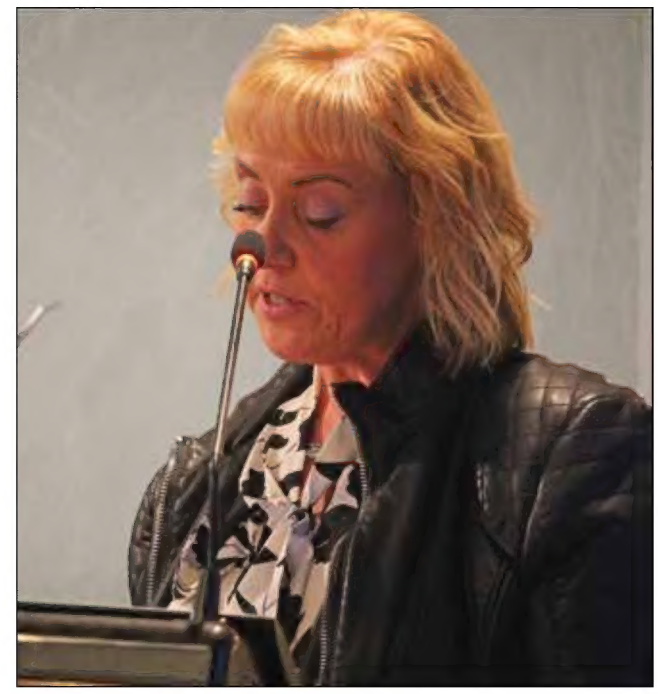
"It sets priorities early. A newly-elected council can agree on its vision, goals, and key projects before budgets and major decisions are made," she said. Johannessen added it provides accountability.

She thought adopting a strategic plan just months before October's election could tie the hands of an incoming council that may have different priorities.

Fletcher said she would have liked to have had a strategic plan in place when she started with the municipality two-and-a-half years ago, but did not. She was concerned about the optics of deferring, saying a plan "had been long expected, with a lot of input from the community."

Fletcher noted they would be reviewing the study early in the new council term, and annually, with a comprehensive review mid-term. She was further worried the new council would have a "huge" learning curve; and adopting a strategic plan "could be a bit daunting."

McKelvey said best practice appeared to be undertaking a strategic planning process at the beginning of each council term. She wanted financial information updated as well. She



Deputy mayor Lisa Schell thought council should have adopted the strategic plan. *File.*

was happy to accept the plan as information only, but refer it to the next council, which she hoped could adopt a plan in its first three months.

Sayne disagreed. "This is something that came from our community with a great deal of consultation, and with expertise doing the analysis and putting this together. If we talk about governance being slow, this is why governance is slow. We don't make decisions.

"There's some really good information and grounding information here that we can move forward with. (Staff) need some footing from us to say 'this is where our community wants us to go'."

Ingram responded, "I love the report. Everything in it, but I don't think it's our time to make the decision on this."

Schell argued the community had input into the plan and "their seats aren't changing come Oct. 26… The items listed are what our community wants to see. Regardless of who's sitting here next, I would hope that they would follow the plan of what the community wants and not just go off on their own. I see this as a living document, a great roadmap for the new council to come in…" She did not see it as binding councillors.

Carter felt it was council's responsibility to approve the plan, with the next council deciding how to execute it. He said it was something that had been worked on for years and "made no sense to push off."

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Highlander news

Irondale church fights for life

By Mike Baker

The clock is officially ticking on the Irondale church.

Eighteen years after the 19th century parish was deconsecrated, the volunteer group that initially saved the building from ruin has put out a warning to the community – new leadership needs to come forward by the end of September or risk seeing the space that was once the hamlet's beating heart die forever.

Douglas Rodger, a member of Bark Lake Cultural Developments (BLCD), the residents' group that owns the church site, said the situation really is that desperate. Meeting with *The Highlander* last week, Rodger confirmed the organization's current president, Carol Simmons, is retiring from her position in September.

Because BLCD has charitable status through the Canada Revenue Agency, it must always maintain a three-person executive; someone filling the roles of secretary, treasurer and president. If an entity is unable to meet those requirements, they lose charitable status and are mandated to liquidate and donate all existing assets, Rodger said.

Simmons said she's been president since 2008 and filling all three positions for much of 2026. She presented her resignation letter to the BLCD board last December, initially wanting to finish by May. She pushed her retirement back hoping to give the group more time to find replacements.

"If nobody steps up then I'll formalize things on my end and the CRA will tell us we have to sell everything, liquidate – and that means the building, too. So we'd lose the church and then have to give the money away," Simmons said, noting that was the commitment the group made when securing charitable status several years ago.

Douglas Rodger said some new blood will have to come forward to prevent the Irondale Church from closing its doors for good. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Background

The historic white building located at the corner of Irondale and Salerno Lake roads has fostered community connection since it was built in 1887. It was financed by a U.S. industrialist, Charles Pusey, who invested heavily in local iron mining. His wife, Ruth, was instrumental in forming the first congregation.

It officially became an Anglican Church in the early 1900s and remained so for almost a century, known as St. John's. It was deconsecrated in 2008, with a final service held on Aug. 29, 2010.

Shortly after the church closed, the Toronto Diocese put the Irondale site on the market. Loathe to lose a building with so much history, a group of prominent families came together to buy the property. Simmons said the locals just finished paying off the $95,000 mortgage in April.

Simmons said it was her husband, Fred, born and raised in Irondale, who did a lot of the active boots-on-the-ground day-to-day work that needed doing. He died in February 2023.

"It's been tough. I've just reached the end of my time [with the church]. A lot of times the stuff I do is something anybody can do. It just needs to be done," Simmons said.

Asked about her favourite memories, Simmons chuckled when reminiscing about old wild game dinners held every July.

"Fred used to do all the hunting and cooking for those dinners – they were always a big deal. We'd get 200 people at least. He always managed the kitchen end, and I did the front of house. We always worked well together," Simmons said, noting the longtime event didn't survive the COVID-19 pandemic.

Help needed

It's been a quiet few years at the church since. Rodger said they're back to hosting informal non-denominational gatherings on Sundays that are open to anyone – even those who don't have an active relationship with God.

"Religion doesn't have the same hold over people today that it used to, but folks still need community and a place to gather. I think that's what this place offers," Rodger said.

Working in show business, Rodger said he's lined up one potential final performance at the church Aug. 22. Folk trio Mystikana will play a set beginning at 7 p.m. It's the latest in a long line of concerts Rodger has been responsible for organizing since 2015.

"We've had some great times here – performances from Albert Saxby, who is known to County residents. We had Russell DeCarle here, who was a Juno award winner; Stephen Fearing; Samantha Martin & Delta Sugar," he said, noting the church can fit up to 100 people.

After spending a month in Spain last year and marveling at the 15th century Catedral de Sevilla, a core piece of the city's history and identity, Rodger said he wants to do everything he can to ensure the Irondale Church lives to see 140. It will celebrate the milestone in 2027.

Turning 75 this year – and with many of the BLCD team now in their senior years, Rodger said it will be up to the next generation to lead the charge.

"We haven't given up on community yet – even though we're scattered across a vast area, we still need to find ways to come together, and the church gives us an opportunity to do that."

Looking out towards the highway, Rodger, a cottager in the area since 1994, said he's learned a lot about the history of Irondale – most of it through conversations sparked at the church.

"There used to be a livery stables just down the way, a hotel over there and another hotel out that way," Rodger said, pointing in all directions. "This was a booming town back at the time the church was built. I think the community would be losing the heart of what Irondale is if the church was forced to close."

He said the facility isn't a financial burden, costing $6,000 to $7,000 per year to run, barring any major repairs – which have been few and far between in recent years. The issue is manpower.

"We're hoping to fix that – you don't need to live in Irondale, as long as you have a car, can drive and have an interest in history and community then we have a place for you," Rodger said.

Interested candidates can email: rodger.douglasa@icloud.com.

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Highlander news

Drag Lake group combats invasive plant

By Mike Baker

Taking his fishing boat out on Drag Lake recently, Haliburton resident Jim Miners said he had anything but a relaxing time on the water.

He was one of approximately 30 volunteers from the Drag and Spruce Lake Property Owners' Association (DSLPOA) to work with four professional divers July 13-15 as mitigation efforts to limit the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil continued.

Residents on Drag Lake first noticed the invasive species in 2017. By 2020, volunteers had mobilized into an official corporation so they could get permission from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to target problematic outbreaks on the lake.

Initial analysis identified four locations with Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), with three more popping up in 2021. This year, the group assessed 20 known sites, Miners said.

"It's a plant that can spread very quickly… once it's established, it self-seeds. When it flowers, it fragments, breaking off from the stem and floating to the surface," Miners said, noting pieces of the plant can spread, leading to other outbreaks.

Miners said there haven't been any new outbreaks since 2023. He's crediting the program developed by former lake steward Bert Bicknell and Trent University professor Dr. Eric Sager six years ago for that.

A dive team was brought in twice in 2020 and once every year since to apply underwater decomposable matting to the EWM, blocking out sunlight. They were approved to lay mats at seven locations this year.

Four professional divers descended into Drag Lake July 15 to tackle Eurasian watermilfoil. *Photo submitted.*

While scientists have debated EWM's impact on aquatic life and lake health, Miners believes it poses a risk to humans.

"It can be very dense and imposing in the water, growing to be 10-15 feet or even longer. If someone happens to fall into a patch and doesn't immediately get themselves out, they can become entangled… there are documented incidents where people have drowned," Miners said.

While decomposing, EWM can reduce oxygen levels in lakes. It can also impact property values, Miners said. While its presence is concerning, he doubts it will ever become an epidemic on Drag Lake, with the plant covering only four per cent of the lakebed.

"I don't think it's ever going to get out of control… because Drag Lake is as big as it is and the shoreline is as rocky as it is, it tends to not be that attractive to EWM," Miners said, noting only three of the outbreaks – near Bonham's Bay, at Outlet Bay and one in the centre of the lake are considered serious.

Expensive work

Another volunteer, Bob Heyes, has had a property on Drag Lake for several years. Asked how bad he thought the problem would be if the lake association hadn't starting tackling EWM, Heyes felt the situation would be much worse.

"I know 10 years ago there are people who say the sites where EWM is now the thickest didn't have anything there – it was always a nice, clear, rocky bottom where people went to fish. It's not such a pretty spot anymore," Heyes said. "If we'd left this alone… we would have 20 really bad sites today, maybe more, instead of just three."

While the team had planned to lay 21 mats, they only ended up placing 17 due to how dense some of the patches were. Miners said it was a difficult job for the dive team, who had to figure out how to pin down taller growths up to 10-15 feet tall.

With each day costing approximately $8,000-10,000, it's not cheap work. Miners estimates next year's efforts may need to be expanded from three days to four or five, just to keep pace with the growth at known EWM sites.

That will require an increase in funding. Miners said the group has invested between $170,000 and $180,000 over the past six years, with $20,000 already raised to support efforts in 2027.

The working group is focusing on controlling the EWM population rather than completely eradicating it, something Miners felt was an unrealistic goal.

"You might get rid of it in one place, but you're never going to get rid of it forever in all locations on a lake once it's taken hold," he said.

No misinformation

Highlander news

County backs idea to streamline planning

By Lisa Gervais

The County of Haliburton wants to change the pre-consultation process for development applications across the Highlands, saying it will improve the experience for customers, reduce duplication, and shorten approval timelines.

County senior planner, Kim Bishop, presented a report to the July 22 meeting, seeking endorsement for the new approach.

Now, applicants have to complete a pre-consultation with the local municipality for all development applications for which the County is the approval authority.

"This has the effect of doubling the efforts of applicants and staff for a single planning application," Bishop said. "Applicants consistently advise that the process is time consuming, expensive, and confusing."

She further noted that streamlining pre-consultation processes was one of the recommendations of the service delivery review and has been discussed by area planners for several years.

She told councillors County staff are recommending a 'one-window' approach, where all proposals are directed to the County, and then circulated to local staff for comments. She added a single set of pre-consultation comments would be provided that address provincial, County, and local policy requirements as the review and commenting during this phase would occur at the staff level.

"The proposed one-window approach would eliminate the requirement for local staff to prepare a recommendation report and present it to their local council; instead, they could provide comments to ensure that proposals conform to local official plan policies, and comply with other planning bylaws. The feedback would also include a list of required submission materials," Bishop said.

Under the proposed new arrangement, endorsement of applications by local councils would shift to the complete application stage, where councils have all the information they require prior to making an endorsement.

Senior planner, Kim Bishop, brought the report to council. *Submitted.*

"The intended effect would be to provide more timely, comprehensive pre-consultation comments, eliminate duplication of effort on the part of applicants and staff, and expedite the consent application review process," Bishop said.

Fees would be adjusted once the program can be evaluated to determine what is required for cost-recovery; likely the municipal fee would be reduced in time provided municipal staff time involved is reduced.

Bishop noted that more recently, the Minden Hills' development approval process review reaffirmed the recommendation by identifying streamlining the consent, commenting and endorsement process as an opportunity for improvement.

"It is the opinion of staff that the proposed process maintains meaningful local municipal involvement while better aligning pre-consultation with its intended purpose under the Planning Act. The recommended approach provides applicants with a single co-ordinated pre-consultation process, reduces duplication between the County and local municipalities, improves customer service, and allows local council endorsement, where desired, to occur at a point in the process when complete information is available to inform decision-making," Bishop said.

Make it easy for the public

Councillors Liz Danielsen, Jennifer Dailloux, and Pat Casey expressed some concern about the input from ward councillors being lost, or any threat of local councils being cut of the process.

However, Bishop said they were giving councils an opportunity to choose their level of involvement.

Casey said he thought they should keep the initial submissions local, "for a local refined feel," with the 'one window' approach starting at the townships, then moving to the County for review. "I do feel it's one or two steps removed from what the local municipality wants, or what the councillors may pick up from the people in their ward," he said.

Director of planning, Elizabeth Purcell, however, noted the carriage and approval authority rests with the County, or its land division committee. "Having carriage through the local municipality puts a lot of work on municipal staff when they're not the approval authority..." She added the proposed process still maintains direct input from local councils.

Coun. Lisa Schell said "one of the biggest frustrations we hear from the community is that this is difficult for the average person to navigate. I don't feel, as a council member, I'm losing any kind of a say that I may have, or not have. I think we need to make this as easy for the pubic as possible."

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Sat., Aug 8, Wilberforce Fair, 1 - 5 p.m.
Wed., Aug 12, Coppertree Resort, 1 - 3 p.m.
Wed., Aug 12., Bonnieview Inn, 5 - 8 p.m.
Sat., Aug 15, Furnace Falls Picnic, 12 - 3 p.m.
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Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

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To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

OUR STAFF

PUBLISHER
Laurie Johnson
laurie@thehighlander.ca

EDITORIAL
Lisa Gervais, Editor
editor@thehighlander.ca

Mike Baker, Asst. Editor
mike@thehighlander.ca

Adam Frisk, LJI Reporter
adam@thehighlander.ca

SALES
Aidan McKnight
aidan@thehighlander.ca

BUSINESS MANAGER
Glenda Mumford
admin@thehighlander.ca

AD DESIGN | LAYOUT
David Partridge, Designer
production@thehighlander.ca

DISTRIBUTION
Walt Griffin

TEAM COORDINATOR
Rufus

CONTACT

705-457-2900
123 Maple Avenue, Box 1024
Haliburton, Ontario, K0M 1S0

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Look in the mirror

By Lisa Gervais

I've been watching Minden Hills council meetings for more than 10 years.

There have been times elected officials have not agreed on things, but, for the most part, they have appeared to be respectful of each other.

I've seen a shift at the council table and it appears to be getting worse as some incumbent councillors prepare for the October municipal election.

The July 23 meeting was somewhat painful to watch. It has become clear that councillors Tammy McKelvey, Ivan Ingram, and Bob Sisson share a similar ideology. Mayor Bob Carter and councillor Pam Sayne are usually on the same page. Depending on the issue, councillors Lisa Schell and Shirley Johannessen can be swing voters.

Sometimes, I worry that differences of personality may be impacting decision-making on behalf of constituents. The back-and-forth is certainly stalling some projects moving forward.

For example, a consultant presented the township's strategic plan for 2026-2031. To complete the final document, 424 residents did a survey, 700 people took part in community engagement, there were four facilitated meet-ups with council, community and businesses and a lot of one-on-one consultations.

It was interesting to see that 37 per cent of folks flagged strong leadership and decision-making as one of the top values for the township.

Strategic plans are meant to guide municipalities and help with good decision-making.

I thought council would endorse the document, and staff and council could start using it as a game plan going forward.

However, Johannessen, McKelvey, Ingram and Sisson felt the plan should go to the next council. They argued it was too late in the term to advance it. In a perfect world, this strategic plan would have been done mid-term. For a variety of reasons, it was not. Staff and Carter, Sayne, and Schell argued council should proceed since it was not just a township document, but belonged to the people.

In the end, the motion was defeated 4-3 and the plan now goes to the incoming council. They will be sworn in this December. With the steep learning curve for new councillors, and the County's affordability and governance study slated to land on their table in mid-January, I worry about when this strategic plan will be passed. Will a new council like the body of work? Will it end up on a shelf?

Personally, as a ratepayer in Minden Hills, I would have preferred endorsement of the plan. It is a living document. Changes can be made. Not having a strategic plan amounts to a rudderless ship.

Another contentious item has been a pedestrian crosswalk for the centre of Bobcaygeon Road in the downtown. Council has talked about this one several times and we have yet to see a request for tenders or proposals go out for the work.

Council passed an RFP for sidewalks at the meeting, but it's now too late to do the crosswalk at the same time. What a waste of taxpayers' money.

I've talked to lots of folks who think the crosswalk is badly needed, feeling it unsafe crossing the courtesy walks at either end of the street. And, yet, Ingram maintains he doesn't think there's a safety concern. McKelvey keeps raising the issue of parking loss, despite staff saying they can formalize parking on Water Street. The project was passed at budget, yet some councillors keep bringing it up; using valuable staff time to do report after report. How is this good governance? If council does not want the crosswalk, bring forward a motion of reconsideration and defeat it. But, please, don't keep going around and around in circles.

The problem is it appears to be personal. When Carter brought up the issue of pedestrian safety, Ingram snapped back about how the public dock is unsafe, but there's little to stop people from accessing it. Off topic and an outburst because, presumably, he didn't like the mayor's opinion.

It's long past time Minden Hills councillors had a good, long, look in the mirror. They say they were elected to represent the people. They need to remember to do that.

A strange process

By Mike Baker

There was an air of inevitability at the beginning of Tuesday's (July 28) Dysart et al council meeting, where Pat Casey was confirmed as the township's new deputy mayor.

It's a short-term role for the former Ward 1 councillor, who will assume the deputy seat for Dysart's final three meetings of the current term. He will also represent the municipality at County council for four meetings.

There were two options for council to choose from, with Ward 2 coun. Nancy Wood-Roberts positioning herself as the "fairer" choice. She isn't seeking re-election in October's vote, while Casey is campaigning for the mayor's chair.

Each candidate had a couple of minutes to address the rest of council before Tuesday's decision. Reading between the lines, it was clear Wood-Roberts knew she wasn't getting the votes. Rather than talk about why she was the better fit – having 18 years of experience representing two different wards, she focused on why her colleagues shouldn't select Casey.

She felt it would send the wrong message to the public, potentially leading, swaying or misinforming them – her words. Basically, by elevating Casey to the deputy mayor role now, Wood-Roberts felt that gave him an advantage over other mayoral candidates Greg Bishop and Andrew Nowell.

While I don't disagree that this gives him a bit of an edge, Casey was well within his rights to run. He hasn't broken any rules. And, thus far, he hasn't used the process to promote his platform and talk key issues.

It was telling, though, that when it was his turn to speak, Casey referred to the deputy mayor role as "another stepping stone forward."

He spoke about having knowledge of "everything that goes on here", referring to Dysart's operations. It was a not-so-thinly veiled way of saying he's up to the job when it comes to leading the community.

The process allowed for each councillor to ask the candidates a question before making their decision – none did.

The silence was deafening. It was clear the decision had already been made before Tuesday's process unfolded. In the end it was a 4-2 vote, with mayor Walt McKechnie supporting Wood-Roberts and councillors Tammy Donaldson, Carm Sawyer and Barry Boice backing Casey.

Following the vote, McKechnie questioned the process Dysart has had to follow to fill its mayor and deputy mayor seats. It took two months to formalize – not great when, at the time of former mayor Murray Fearrey's death, there was only five months left in the term.

He also wasn't happy about the remaining council having to vote among themselves Tuesday, feeling it put them in a tough spot choosing between two respected members while still dealing with Fearrey's loss. He pitched picking names out of a hat. While I understand the sentiment, McKechnie has in recent weeks preached the importance of remaining professional and pushing forward with the job at hand. This is part of that.

Having covered this process from start to finish, it has seemed a convoluted mess. That's not Dysart's fault. They followed rules outlined in the Municipal Act to a tee.

There were multiple checkpoints the township had to pass – they had to officially vacate seats, advertise publicly how they would fill them, then follow through. All in, it took 61 days.

Fearrey died May 28. McKechnie wasn't confirmed as mayor until July 7, with Casey appointed three weeks later. Aside from political red tape, I'm struggling to understand why this couldn't have all been sorted out in a special meeting in early June.

At least now the township can, finally, draw a line under this and focus on completing what little is left of this term as best they can.

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Hold councillors accountable

Dear editor,

I am writing to express my dismay at the decision taken by Highlands East council to override staff recommendations to uphold the mandatory use of the municipal GIS dashboard for operators of STRs.

Most operators are supportive of the municipal rules in place, which assist the operation of their business. Council chose to cave to a few outliers. The use of 'privacy issues' as a blind to cover complaints of a minority of STR operators simply does not fly.

If you want to drive on the roads in Ontario, you can't opt out of getting a licence. And you have to follow the rules to get a licence. Furthermore, people who are operating a business in the public market, voluntarily give up the right to some degree of privacy by being licensed to operate in the public sphere. This is particularly true of people who are placing their own homes on the market for temporary use.

A municipal election is around the corner and I urge residents of Highlands East to keep in mind that it is the responsibility of councillors to protect the public interest, not to cater to those few outliers in the private sector who are offended by the rules that allow them to operate. The councillors who made this knee-jerk reaction, on the false premise of choice, should be held accountable during the campaign.

Valerie Hunnius
Paudash Lake

Silence on LifeLabs unacceptable

Dear editor,

Another excellent article from Mike Baker re: LifeLabs in Haliburton.

The closure of the Haliburton laboratory (with no plan to re-open or provide a local temporary service) should be of great interest and concern to all County residents. Other tenants of the building are still in situ and, unlike the laboratory staff, seem able to live with the odour.

LifeLabs parent U.S. company, Quest Diagnostics, is rapacious in its acquisitions if the Wikipedia entry is accurate. It has also been the subject of lawsuits in the U.S. and in Ireland. It is now sending non-routine tests to U.S. hospitals rather than those tests being done in Canadian hospital laboratories. Guess who is profiting?

It's heartening that the Ontario Health Coalition is onto this, but where are the other players? The Ontario government, our MPP, and the other affected parties in the County? The medical centre (aka family health team) and the physicians – silent.

HHHS (which has no control over the medical centre other than the CEO sits on the board) could surely step up – silent. The community advisory committee which reports to, and supposedly advises, the HHHS board on community concerns – silent. Extendicare – silent. Aging in Place, which supposedly looks out for seniors – silent. Not to mention other local organizations, which may have occasion to use laboratory services for clients for tests, e.g. drug addiction programs.

The silence locally is deafening**.** Many residents who require laboratory tests are inconvenienced; some can't drive to Minden; some don't have families to help with appointments; Community Services is short of drivers to take people to appointments locally and further afield; taxi fares are ridiculously expensive, especially if the taxi has to wait for hours. The local politicians in Haliburton are sitting on their hands.

A truly liveable, healthy community fights for and ensures good, accessible, timely health services for all ages. Lakes, scenery and hiking trails don't do it.

Jane Taylor
Algonquin Highlands

Councillor accountability

Dear editor,

We call them public servants for a reason. Their job is to represent the people who elected them, listen to the community, and be accountable for the decisions they make. They aren't above the residents—they work for the residents.

Whether you agree with a council decision or not, asking questions and expecting clear answers isn't difficult. It's part of a healthy democracy. The people sitting around the council table have a responsibility to explain their decisions and earn the public's trust.

As we head toward the next municipal election, don't just listen to campaign promises—pay attention to results. If someone says they'll lower taxes, ask whether they did. If they promise to simplify permits and cut red tape, ask whether they followed through. If they say they'll listen to the community, ask whether they actually did.

Elected officials serve because the public gives them that responsibility. Collectively, residents have the final say. Never forget that the people are, ultimately, more powerful than any council, because in a democracy, council answers to the community - not the other way around.

Phil Primavera
Haliburton

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Kevin K. Pepper captured a kayaker enjoying the quiet and calm of a foggy morning.

Impossible without taxes

Dear editor,

In last week's *Highlander*, letter-writer Dan Trautman was indignant about the $10,000 tax attached to his purchase of a $720,000 home. He had a right to be indignant about not being warned of this in advance by whichever professionals assisted him with the transaction.

However, I could not share his anger about the tax itself on the deal, a tax that amounted to about 1.3 per cent of the purchase price. There is no escaping the need to inflict taxes on us to keep our various levels of government running. How would Dan balance the books without taxing something?

Should we privatize health care? Do away with public schools? Here's one: When the snow falls on Hwy. 35 this fall, we could leave it there to melt in the spring. The snowplow operators could find other jobs and Dan could ski about town.

Taxes are a hardship for many of us, but life would be impossible without them.

Neil Campbell
Minden

Crafting at the fair

Dear editor,

Back in 2013, when I first got the idea to sponsor hat decorating at our Wilberforce Penny Raffle, I didn't see it growing as large as it is now.

After retiring, I was looking to organize a no-cost crafting activity where people could explore their creative side. After a few years, the hat parade was added. We give everyone a noisemaker, and they parade around the arena to show off their finished hats.

Thank you to *The Highlander* for printing photos of our Penny Raffle event and the decorated hats.

I'm pleased to announce that the Wilberforce Fair is giving me space to do a similar crafting event. This one features masks. It takes place on Saturday, Aug. 8, in the lobby of the Wilberforce Arena, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The mask forms and all decorations are provided free, but a fair admission of adults $10, teens (13 to 17) $5, 12 and under free is required.

You can find out more about the other exciting activities happening at the fair on their website at wilberforcefair.com.

I look forward to seeing lots of children and adults concocting amazing creations to take home and thank the Wilberforce Fair for assisting me to put on another crafting event.

Barb Schofield
Wilberforce

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THIS WEEK:

Meet Minden Hills Mayoral Candidate Pat Kitcheman

Highlander news

Just the Highlands

Red Cross Outpost secures funding

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost, one of the County's significant historical landmarks, secured last-minute funding to keep its doors open this season. It has hired a student guide after initially being denied a Canada Summer Jobs grant.

The approval comes after the Wilberforce Heritage Guild was initially notified that it was ineligible for the summer jobs grant because the museum doesn't process its own payroll. Historically, the Municipality of Highlands East has managed payroll for one summer employee on behalf of the volunteer-run organization.

Speaking to *The Highlander*, Wilberforce Heritage Guild member Linda Cameron explained that the federal government reached out and offered a "one-time" exception for this summer, allowing the municipality to continue to handle the payroll, allowing the museum to hire its planned summer student guide on-schedule.

While the temporary resolution saved this year's operations, the federal requirements pose a challenge for the historical site's future. In order to receive these grants, the federal government required that recipient organizations hold their own Canada Revenue Agency payroll accounts to receive funding directly. For Cameron and the guild, this task would be "very, very difficult" for a small, volunteer-operated non-profit, to manage.

"Your guess is as good as mine," Cameron said when asked how the unexpected one-time approval came about.

The original funding denial sparked widespread attention across Highlands East, and resulted in offers of financial support from community members. Cameron said residents responded to the news coverage by stepping forward with direct contributions to help the historic outpost.

"The newspaper coverage generated a lot of interest in the Red Cross Museum, its mission, and circumstances," she said. "As a result, we gratefully received several generous contributions."

The Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost served as the only medical provider in the region from 1922 to 1963 and was the first outpost opened by the Red Cross in Ontario. For more than 30 years, the guild, a volunteer-run charity, has partnered with the municipality to operate the site as a museum. In 2003, the outpost was designated a national historic site of Canada.

"I think the reason for us being here is to make sure that the history of all of that is preserved for the people who are coming after us," Cameron said.

Despite possible hurdles for future funding cycles, the guild remains hopeful. Thanks to the recent public support and an active summer visitor season, the organization continues its work preserving the outpost and its history within the community.

The Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost and Museum pictured on Canada Day earlier this month. *Photo by Adam Frisk*

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It's nicer here

Highlander people

Gymnastics coach vaults into new role

By Mike Baker

After a 26-plus year career in competitive gymnastics, John Craig said he planned his permanent relocation to Haliburton County this past winter expecting to leave his old coaching life behind him. Then he met Kathy Judson.

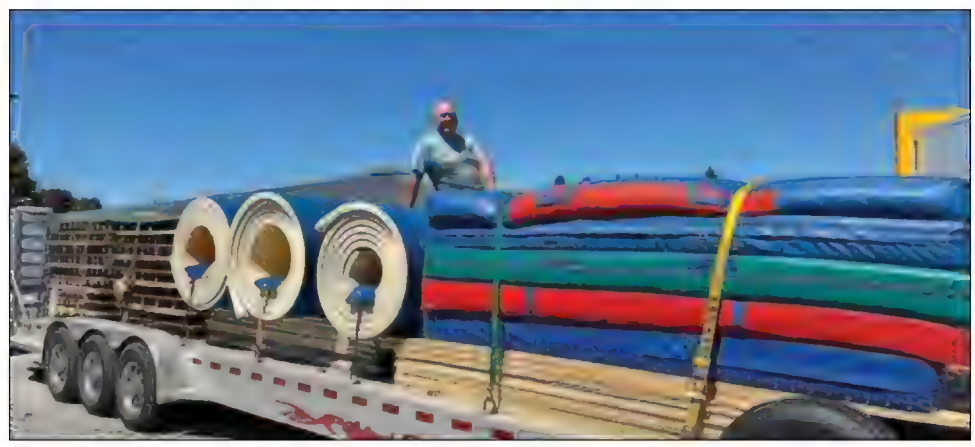
Craig will serve as head coach at the new Haliburton Gymnastics facility once it opens next month. Located at 367 Industrial Park Rd., the 8,000 sq. ft. space will feature recreational and competitive gymnastics programs for County youth aged three to 17. A soft opening is planned Aug. 17.

After buying a cottage on Drag Lake in 2023, Craig said he'd been looking for reasons to spend more time in the Highlands. He was here for extended weekends, Friday to Tuesday, spending a couple of days coaching in Port Elgin. The four-hour drive wore on him quickly, Craig said.

Already contemplating his long-term future, Craig spotted one of Judson's early social media posts asking people if they wanted to see a specialized gymnastics program come to the Highlands. He completed a survey and offered to help Judson, having experience helping to get new programs off the ground, most recently in Hanover.

A couple of days later, Craig received an offer from Bruce County for his gym building. A deal closed in the spring. It was all very serendipitous, the trainer said.

In recent weeks, Craig said it's been a bit of a rush deconstructing his Port Elgin space and getting the Haliburton facility set up. He either sold or donated all his equipment to Haliburton Gymnastics.



John Craig atop a 36-foot trailer used to transport gymnastics equipment from Port Elgin to Haliburton. *Photo submitted.*

"There's a lot we're bringing in – there will be a major climbing wall, full spring floor and tumble track, vault table, vault strip and landing area. We'll also have two balance beams, three sets of uneven bars and one set of high parallel bars," Craig said.

After excelling in soccer, football and rugby in his youth, Craig said he was surprised when he took a liking to trampoline in his first year at Queen's University. He learned under Wingee Lee, a junior national champion in the sport.

"Wingee was doing some really cool things, and I decided I wanted to do that too," Craig said. "Eventually, I started helping to coach."

He started taking his courses and, in 1995, started running his first gym. By the time he was finished his degree, Craig was both competing and coaching at the national level. His best result as an athlete was fifth place at a national meet in 2001, though Craig has had a hand in developing eight provincial champions.

The head coach said he's excited to help guide up-and-coming gymnasts in the County. Competitive tryouts will begin in August.

"This is a great opportunity for kids – anyone signing up will learn agility, balance, coordination and spatial orientation as part of their physical fitness journey. In terms of mental focus and organization, it's second to none. You learn to get disciplined quick," Craig said.

Seven months after going public with her plans, Judson said it feels surreal to be planning the gym's opening. A schedule of classes went live last week, with an enormous response.

"There has been a lot of bumps along the way, but they always seemed to smooth themselves out. The community showed up for me, and for these kids, time and again," Judson said. "I feel like I'm just facilitating other people's hard work."

To date, Judson said she's received approximately $107,000 in in-kind and cash donations, with major contributions from businesses like Haliburton Electric, Paradigm Electric, Kegel Heating and Cooling, and The Pump Shop. She also thanked Dysart et al mayoral candidate and retired Ontario land surveyor Greg Bishop for his assistance meeting demands set out by the township's planning department.

There has also been a $100,000 loan provided by the Haliburton County Development Corporation.

"The outpouring of support has been amazing – we couldn't have done this without our community."

Judson said Craig will be one of about 10 coaches – though she hopes more will come forward to help. As an instructor, Craig can teach people to become licensed coaches.

A grand opening of the space will be held Sept. 12, Judson confirmed. To register for programs, visit haliburtongymnastics.uplifterinc.com.

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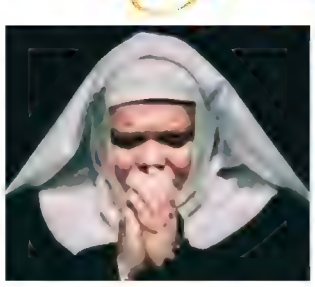

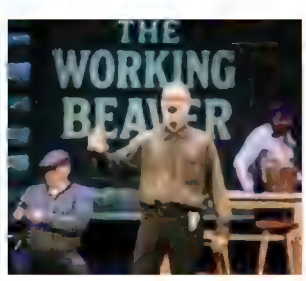

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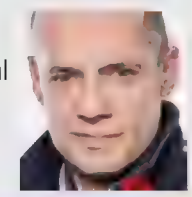

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Saturday, August 8th | 6:00-7:00pm
Fairfield Bay, Mountain Lake, Minden
WATER ACCESS ONLY

#2: WHY CHOOSE OPERA?
Tuesday, August 11th | 7:30-8:45pm
Abbey Gardens Tent, Haliburton

#3: CANADIAN COMPOSER'S WORKSHOP
Tuesday, August 25th 7:30-8:45pm
St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton

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Why we made it

Three years ago, Meta banned Canadian media companies from Facebook and Instagram. Since then, the quality of information on these platforms has deteriorated. Instead of trustworthy news, there is misinformation, anger, and division. We believe that's bad for Haliburton County.

We created this app to solve that problem: to make a space that is just for our community, without the downsides of social media.

What's on it

You'll find verified, accurate news from our reporters, including breaking news alerts. You will also find information from local not-for-profits, service organizations and municipalities. The feed is in strict chronological order – there's no algorithm to track or manipulate you.

How to get it

The best way is to go to thehighlander.app on your cellphone On your first visit, you'll get a message encouraging you to install the app on your phone. Click this and the app will appear on your home screen so you can easily find it again.

How to use it

You don't need to create an account to use the app. But if you do, there are two benefits. First, you can choose which categories you want to see. Second, you can get notifications on your phone. There's a breaking news category, so anytime there is something urgent and important happening in the county, you can be notified. To create an account, just follow the links on the screen.

Why you can't comment on it

We know you might enjoy commenting on Facebook. But a downside of comments is that misinformation can spread. Without moderation, which is an impossible job for us, the value of the app would be lost. The Highlander's reporters are trained journalists, which means they follow rules so that what they post is as accurate as possible. They are also accountable because they live and work in our community. If they make a mistake, readers tell us – and we fix it. We hope that this approach will create an environment that is useful and pleasant.

How to advertise on Hi

We will be funding the app by offering a limited number of spots to local advertisers who want to reach people in Haliburton County. For more information, contact Aidan (aidan@thehighlander.ca).

How to give us feedback

Email Adam (adam@thehighlander.ca) or stop by our office in Haliburton village.

It's nicer here

Hi has a slogan: It's nicer here. Imagine getting all your important news and information about Haliburton County from a trustworthy source. No algorithms, no trolls, no lies. Just 100% pure news and information. It's calm and friendly. It's real. Just like our beautiful Highlands. It's nicer here.

thehighlander.app

Nice caboose

Haliburton village's iconic caboose on York Street gets some TLC as a worker begins sprucing up the historic Canadian National Railway cabin car. The rail car is the current home for the Caboose Community Bike Hub, a community cycling program. The Rotary Club of Haliburton obtained the CNR antique in the late 1970s and was moved to Head Lake Park in 1979. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

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Tick 'problem sites'

By Mike Baker

Lakelands Public Health (LPH) officials are warning about rising tick populations in Ontario, resulting in a near doubling of known local Lyme disease cases since 2022.

The health unit's Dr. Stephen McCarthy said data collected by Public Health Ontario in recent years shows several tick-borne diseases are on the rise. He blamed the recent phenomenon on climate change.

"It's continually changing our environment. The geography of animals keeps moving. As deer populations move north, ticks follow," McCarthy said.

The black-legged tick is prevalent in the great lakes region, but McCarthy said other forms of the species, such as the Lonestar tick, are starting to move north from the southern U.S. He said, on average, tick species are advancing 35-40 kilometres per year.

McCarthy said about 20-30 per cent of ticks carry Lyme disease, which can be transmitted to humans. He said it takes about 24 hours for the disease to be passed from a latched-on tick. Key signs include a bullseye-like rash, fever and fatigue. It can be treated with antibiotics within the first three days.

In 2022, health units identified 75 cases of Lyme in the region covering Haliburton, Peterborough and Northumberland counties and Kawartha Lakes. Last year, there were about 180 confirmed cases.

"Untreated, Lyme can lead to serious health complications including heart damage, arthritis, and nervous system issues such as facial weakness, nerve pain or meningitis," McCarthy said.

Dr. Thomas Piggott, LPH medical officer of health, said he was cottaging in Haliburton County with his family recently when he noticed a tick had latched onto his daughter. He removed it quickly and there were no side effects.

"Catching them within that first 24 hours is crucial," Piggott said, noting the insects can also harm pets.

Public Health Ontario expanded its human testing and tick surveillance programs in 2023. It also introduced a citizen science component, releasing the app 'etick' so people can report sightings of ticks anywhere in Ontario.

McCarthy said the province has provided a map showing tick "problem areas," featuring four Highlands locations, including the Kennisis trail in Algonquin Highlands, the Scotch Line trailhead in Minden Hills, Ganaraska Hiking Trail in the Queen Elizabeth Wetlands and the Haliburton Sculpture Forest.

Piggott said while ticks can pose serious health risks, he didn't think their increased presence was too concerning.

"I don't want to instill a fear of ticks and Lyme disease. Healthy awareness is important, but we don't want people to be afraid of going outdoors," Piggott said. "As these populations expand, we need to normalize checking ourselves for ticks all the time."

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www.gardensofhaliburton.ca

MY Haliburton HIGHLANDS
Seniors Active Living Centre

Check out this month's SALC events and activities for residents aged 55+

Board game drop-in – various dates in August

August 4, 11, 18
Seniors Stretch Class

August 4, 11, 18
Exercise Classes with Georgia

August 4, 11, 18
Seniors Balance & Cardio Fitness Class

August 5 & 19
Exercise with Georgia

August 6, 13, 20
Seniors Stretch Class

August 7 & 21
Gentle Stretch, Balance & Relaxation

August 10 & 20
Painting Class

August 10, 17, 24 & 31
Qi Gong

August 11
SALC Webinar: HHHS Community Support Services & more!

August 12
Spot the Scam

August 13
SALC Webinar: Early Settler Medicine & the Legacy of Dr. Agnes Jamieson

August 14
Creative Connections, Interactive Arts Workshop

August 19
SALC Webinar: Service Canada Programs and Services Info Session

August 19
Crafternoon Drop-In

August 22
Thrive in the Gym

August 25
SALC Webinar – Exploring the Warning Signs of Dementia

August 28
Wills & Estates with Angrove Law

Ontario

Funding for this program has been provided by the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility

For full details, visit HaliburtonCounty.ca/SALC or pick up a calendar at a municipal office, library or Legion near you!

MATT DUCHENE
CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

THANK YOU!

The 2026 Matt Duchene Charity Golf Classic was an incredible success, raising more than $314,000 in support of local healthcare. Thank you to the stellar organizing committee - Troy Austen, Vince Duchene, Susannah Moylan, Melanie Blodgett, Dawn Elliott, David Blodgett and Michelle Parker - our sponsors, golfers, donors, volunteers and auction contributors who made it all happen. Thanks to MC Rick Lowes and auctioneer Keith Moore for a dynamic evening program. Heartfelt thanks to the entire Duchene family - Matt, Ashley, Vince, Chris, Emile and Jane for their unwavering dedication to enhancing healthcare close to home. A special shoutout to Beau, Jaymes and Ellie Duchene for their beautiful rendition of 'Oh Canada'. From the staff and Board of Directors of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation - thank you - for your generosity, your partnership, and your belief in local healthcare.

$314,592 RAISED IN SUPPORT OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES FOUNDATION

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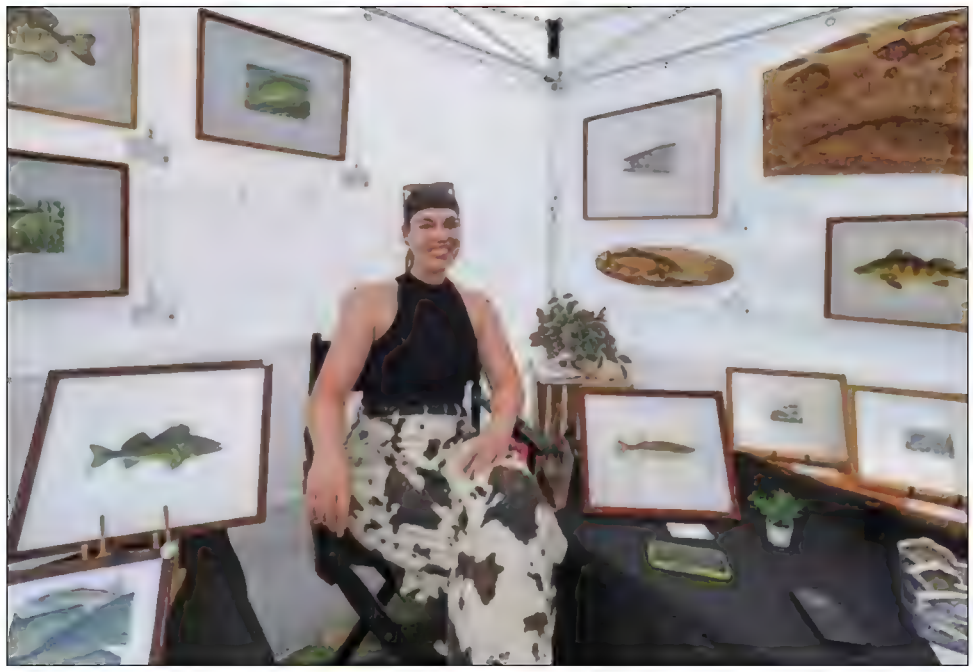
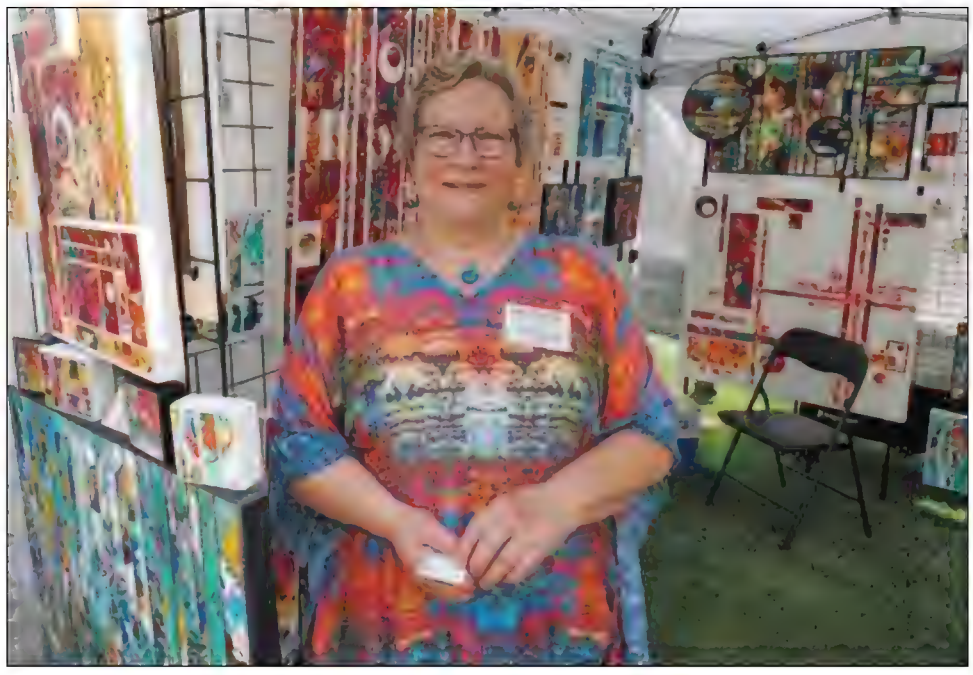
Highlander events





Rails End takeover

The annual Haliburton Art and Craft Festival took over Head Lake Park last weekend (July 24-26), with 100 Canadian artisans showcasing their work. The three-day event featured artists who specialized in a variety of mediums, including handcrafted jewellery, visual art, sculpture, ceramics and glass, fashion and accessories and fine woodworking. Food vendors and live entertainment were also on hand.

Top: Abby Wynia is all smiles at her booth on Saturday morning. Middle: Fine art photographer Jonathan Sau poses with his photography. Bottom: Tamara Campbell with her art work during the three-day event. *Photos by Adam Frisk*

Gull Lake Waterfront
4 Season Cottage!
$859,900

Experience the beauty of Gull Lake from this 4-season waterfront retreat featuring panoramic lake views, crystal-clear water, and a family-friendly sandy shoreline. The bright open-concept interior offers vaulted ceilings, three bedrooms, including a primary suite with 2 piece ensuite and walk-in closet, plus a full walkout basement with high ceilings. Enjoy a spacious lakeside deck, excellent boating, swimming and fishing, extended floating dock, drilled well, winterized comfort and ample parking. An included pop-up camper provides extra space for guests at this exceptional original-owner property.

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Highlander events

ADVERTORIAL

When the trees fell

By Simon Payn

My mother tells me the first word I uttered was "tree". She says it was because she would wheel me about in my pram on walks in our neighbourhood when, prone as I was, all I could see were the branches of the local beeches and oaks.

Three huge trees grew at the end of our road. They were perfectly formed with symmetrical branches and a rounded crown – the kind of tree I drew at school. I loved them.

So when the Great Storm blew through southern England with hurricane-force winds in 1987 and knocked them over along with 15 million others, I was devastated.

One of the trees had crashed through a fence and onto the roof of a house. I was 16 and it was my first taste of adulthood.

White pine

Some of the most poignant conversations I have with clients are about trees. Often all that's left is a stump, where an old, diseased white pine had to be cut down. Or there's the guilty sadness of trees that were removed to make way for a new cottage.

These trees gave shade, framed the view and were good friends the homeowner had grown up with. So the conversation begins: how can they be replaced?

One of the trees had crashed onto the roof of a house. I was 16 and it was my first taste of adulthood.

Oak

The park-like landscapes of Capability Brown in Britain feature majestic trees. Brown, in a reaction to the garden design of the past, re-created "natural" landscapes, with wide grassy vistas, punctuated with specimen trees and whimsical buildings.

I visited these landscapes as a child – Blenheim Palace, Harewood House, Chatsworth – and remember learning how Brown was planting for the future. He would never see what the little oaks would become. But he could imagine it.

Spruce

I visited a client's cottage the other week. His family had lived on the lake for generations – the first family to set up home there.

He had pictures of how it used to be and he pointed out the young spruce in the black-and-white photos. They were still there: standing tall like they owned the place. Because they kind of did.

Sycamore

In the north of England, along Hadrian's Wall, is a place called Sycamore Gap. It's where two hills almost meet, leaving a valley in between. And in the middle a single specimen tree. A sycamore. It was an image my father, who was born not far away, grew up with.

Then three years ago two men cut the tree down for a laugh. The people who lived close by were devastated. So was the rest of the nation. The vandals were put in jail for more than four years.

Birch

I visited a client the other day who had some beautiful paper birches along his shoreline. But birches don't live very long and they were showing signs of ill health.

My client was thinking of succession, of what comes next. Should he plant some trees now so they would take over when the birches were dead? A bare shore was almost unthinkable.

Walnut

A few years ago, I planted some trees around my home: willows and a tamarack for the wet areas, oaks for wildlife.

I also added some black walnut – a tree suited to south of here. I was thinking of what's to come as our climate warms.

Simon Payn owns Grounded, which designs, installs and cares for ecological landscapes. Visit groundedgardens.ca.

Ecological gardens and shorelines designed and cared for over time
Native plant landscapes. Looked after, season after season.
For more info and a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca
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GARDENING FOR LIFE

A blooming good time

Little Bloom Co. hosted its annual Bloomfest at 1141 Ritchie Falls Rd. in Haliburton County this past Saturday (July 25). The family-friendly flower festival featured pick-your-own bouquets, artisans, food, live music, face painting and a kids' play area.

Top: Jeffrey Jaynes and Penny Massey with their hand-picked bouquet. Middle: Folks wander the flower gardens. Bottom: Audrey and John Collins show off their flower power. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

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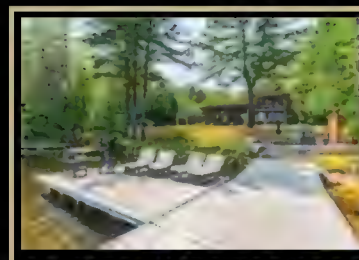
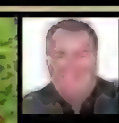

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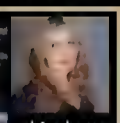

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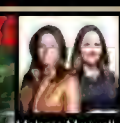

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Highland Gate Home $599,000
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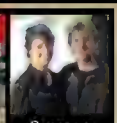

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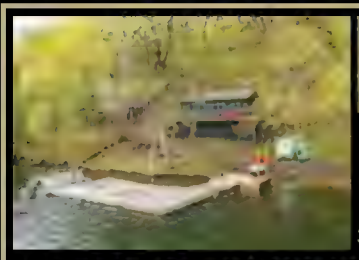
- 3 Bed Ctg w/ Sauna & Bunkie
- Year-Round Access, 2-Lake Chain



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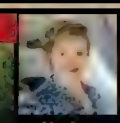

OPEN HOUSE

Kathy Martin* (705) 457-7592

Minden Home $675,000
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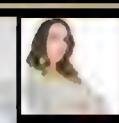
- Massive Garage/Workshop, Open Cpt
- OPEN HOUSE: Sun, Aug 2 @ 11am-1pm



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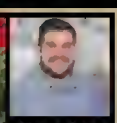

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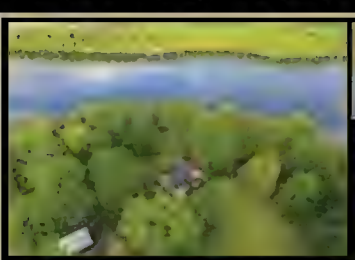

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SUMMER Sale!

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ON ALL IN STOCK
2026 MODELS

YAMAHA
POWERED BOAT PACKAGES ALSO QUALIFY!
EXTRA 2 YEARS ENGINE WARRANTY (5 YEARS TOTAL!)
+
UP TO AN ADDITIONAL $1,500 OFF!

BENNINGTON 21 SL

$75,695*

Yamaha F115, SPS Triple toon, hydraulic steering, Blackout Package, Ski Bar Echomap

YAMAHA WAVE RUNNERS

STARTING AT
$14,599*

Rebates up to $1000 off **OR** Interest Rate special of 4.49% up to 72 Months

MONTEREY M20

$86,495*

MerCruiser 4.5 250 hp, Seadek throughout, Bimini Top, Tonneau Cover, Depth Sounder

BENNINGTON 188 SL

$45,995*

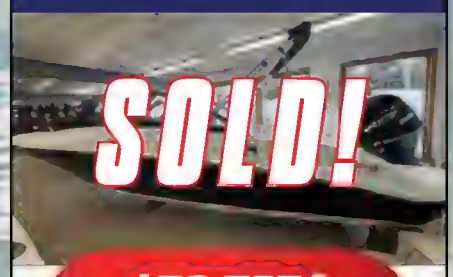
Yamaha T60 Highthrust, 25" Pontoons, 10' Bimini Top, Mooring Cover

STINGRAY 172 SC 2025

$44,995*

Yamaha F90, Ski Pole, Bimini Top, Tonneau Cover

STINGRAY 191 DC



$53,795*

Yamaha VF115 SHO, Ski pole, Bimini top, Tilt Steering, Battery Switch

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NEW PRICE
$89,995*

Mercruiser 4.5 250Hp, Tonneau & Bow cover, Bimini top, Seadek Throughout

MONTEREY BENNINGTON ALUMACRAFT STINGRAY Boats YAMAHA Revs Your Heart

WALSTEN Marine

3613 COUNTY ROAD 121, KINMOUNT

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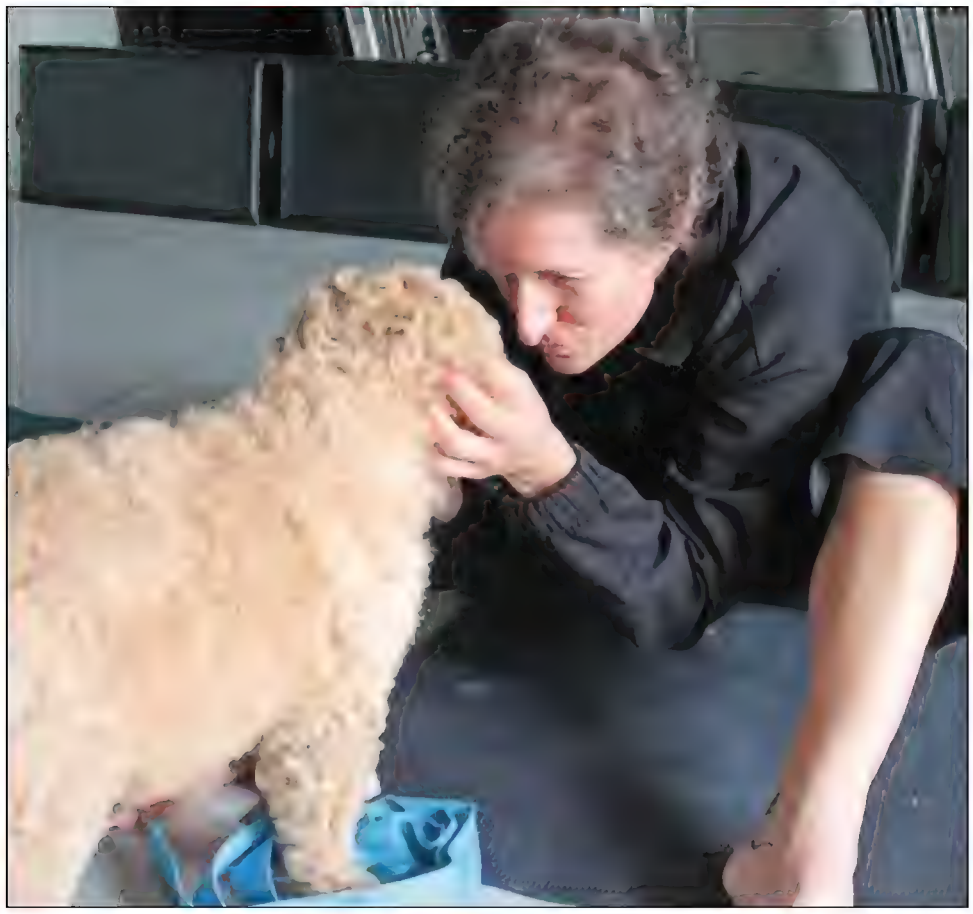
walstenmarine.com

*Plus freight, prep & taxes. See dealer for details.

Highlander events



Downward-facing dog

It was cuteness overload at Reform+Restore Wellness Hub at 135 Industrial Park Rd. in Haliburton this past weekend (July 25 and 26) as Goldendoodle at Home Breeder, Gabriella Castillo, brought her pups for classes with kids and adults. On Sunday morning, instructor Lori Sharp had her hands full trying to wrangle the humans and puppies for her class. The business offers puppy yoga from time to time. Check them out at reformrestore.ca

Top left: Kris Marles and son, Isaac, interact with the Goldendoodles at Reform+Restore Haliburton. Bottom left: Trish Whyte has a friend join her on her yoga mat. Top right: Pam Strong is smitten with this Goldendoodle. Bottom right: Lincoln Dollo enjoys some puppy time during puppy yoga. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

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Featuring:
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Visit our website: highlandseast.ca
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Haliburton
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MIDNIGHT MADNESS
SATURDAY
AUGUST 1
7PM - 11PM
PRIZE PASS RETURNS
Great sales, food, & entertainment!
HIGHLAND STREET WILL BE CLOSED @ 6.30PM
FOLLOW US FOR MORE DETAILS
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GLECOFF'S FAMILY STORE GLECOFF'S FAMILY STORE

GLECOFF'S FAMILY STORE

MIDNIGHT MADNESS

GLECOFF'S FAMILY STORE

Saturday, August 1st - 7pm to 11 pm ONLY

25% OFF* STORE WIDE!

25% off Ladies wear
25% off Mens wear
25% off Childrens wear
25% off Footwear
25% off Summer Goods
25% off Pet Supplies
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25% off Toys
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CHECK OUT OUR HUGE SIDEWALK SALE

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Highlander sports

Left: Lucas Lawson and mom, Manny, will be helping out at free hockey equipment day in Haliburton Aug. 28. Right: Wesley Branham from Wilberforce shows off his haul at last year's event. *Photos submitted.*

Collecting for free hockey equipment day

By Mike Baker

Hockey-mad Highlands mom Manny Lawson wants to knock down any doors preventing youth from across Haliburton County from playing Canada's favourite sport this winter.

Lawson is once again partnering with the Highland Storm for the third annual free hockey equipment day at A.J. LaRue Arena Aug. 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Since launching in 2024, Lawson said the program has supported more than 120 youth. Last year, about 45 families benefitted with over 100 pieces of equipment given away.

All types of equipment, including sticks, helmets, gloves, chest, shin and elbow pads, shorts, and skates are available to youth aged three to 17 free of charge.

"Hockey is an expensive sport. Buying everything new is hundreds of dollars, maybe more, which is a substantial cost for families," Lawson told *The Highlander*. "We want to make sure every kid who wants to play hockey has everything they need to get out on the ice."

Knowing how badly some in the community are struggling, Lawson encouraged anyone attending to bring a non-perishable food donation, which will be donated to one of the local food banks. Last year, she raised $120 and collected four large bags of donations.

Gently-used hockey items can be donated at drop-off locations at Emmerson Lumber in Haliburton and Carnarvon and the Minden Fire Hall throughout August. People can also contact Lawson at mannyfergie@hotmail.com or 905-410-5964.

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Andrew Hodgson, Broker
andrewhodgsonrealestate.com
andrew.hodgson@century21.ca
705-854-0130

ANDREW HODGSON
REAL ESTATE

JUST REDUCED!

LITTLE HAWK LAKE $2,000,000
Oakview Lodge & Marina offers 8,500 SF main lodge with 6 suites, 3-bedroom owner's apartment, guest cottage, 2-car garage with loft & 60-slip marina.

JUST REDUCED!

KASHAGAWIGAMOG LAKE $1,499,000
5-bedroom, 3-bath waterfront home with 108' of shoreline, a walkout lower level, oversized double garage, seasonal bunkie. Plus an 8+ acre back lot!

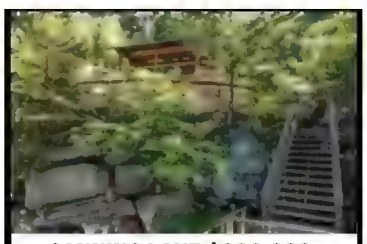
JUST REDUCED!

SERVICE CENTRE $1,149,999
Turnkey service station in Wilberforce featuring gas & diesel sales, LCBO & OLG licensing, a bottle return depot, propane refilling & extensive upgrades

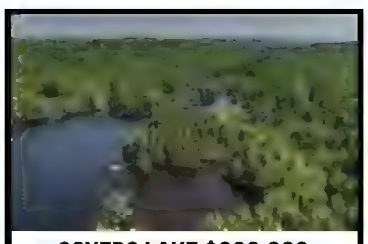
HIGHLAND ST $969,000
Exceptional investment opportunity in Haliburton Village: main street gas station, propane station, tire shop, upper-level apartment & commercial zoning.

JUST REDUCED!

HALIBURTON LAKE $899,000
4-season 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage with a clean sand shoreline, a spacious bunkie adding to your living space & an oversized heated garage with loft.



CANNING LAKE $899,000
3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home with sunset views, open-concept living, finished lower level, Bunkie, & more — on Haliburton's most sought after 5-lake chain.

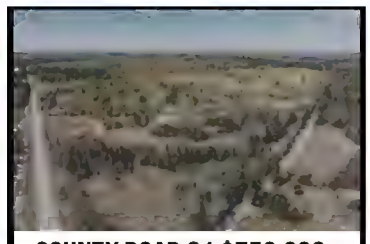


SOYERS LAKE $899,000
Private point lot with 530' of frontage, unbelievable sunsets, exclusive access to a small island & boating across Haliburton's most sought-after 5-lake chain.

HIGHLAND ST $799,990
4,000 sq. ft. mixed-use commercial building in downtown Haliburton with 3 long-term tenants, excellent visibility, & a prime in-town corner-lot.

JUST REDUCED!

WONDERLAND RD $799,000
Renovated 3-bedroom, 1.5-bath home with a custom Mennonite kitchen, bunkie, & access to a sand beach on Kashagawigamog Lake.



COUNTY ROAD 21 $750,000
68-acres with frontage on County Road 21 & Soyers Lake Road, hydro and Bell services at the road, & excellent development or recreational potential.

NEW LISTING!

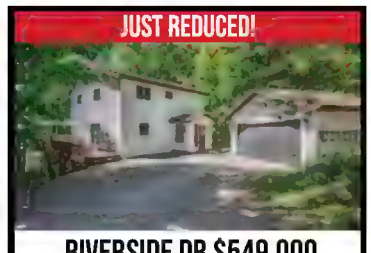
KASHAGAWIGAMOG LAKE $650,000
Exceptional 139-acre waterfront parcel with 1,000' + of frontage, just 10 minutes from Haliburton & part of the renowned 5-lake chain.

NEW LISTING!

DARDANELLES RD $649,000
5-bedroom, 2.5-bath log home on 51 acres with over 3,400 sq. ft., 2 miles of private trails, water views, & a sandy beach on Drag Lake nearby.

SOYERS LAKE RD $600,000
13.5-acres with over 1,200' of frontage on County Road 21, additional frontage on Soyers Lake Rd, close to Haliburton & excellent development potential.

HIGHWAY 35 $599,000
Rustic yet modern 4-bedroom, 2-bath cabin on 80 private acres with trails, wetlands, wildlife, Crown Land access, & easy year-round access.



JUST REDUCED!

RIVERSIDE DR $549,000
3 bedroom, 3-bath in-town home with a renovated kitchen, numerous recent upgrades, a finished lower level, outdoor living space, & detached garage.

NEW LISTING!

KUSHOG LAKE RD $500,000
139-acres with over 1,600' of road frontage, private pond, extensive trail network, & hydro at the lot line, located across from Kushog Lake.

NEW LISTING!

GELERT RD $499,900
Move-in-ready in-town home with 2-bedroom, 1.5-baths, a finished walkout basement, 2-car garage, & sunset views over Grass Lake.

NEW LISTING!

BRADY LAKE RD $400,000
300+ acres comprised of 2 adjoining parcels with over 7,000' of road frontage private ponds, mature forest, & endless potential in the Highlands.

HALIBURTON LAKE $314,000
Waterfront building lot featuring a clean sandy shoreline, elevated building site with lake views, year-round road access, driveway installed & hydro at the lot line.

JUST REDUCED!

COUNTY ROAD 121 $269,000
Excellent opportunity for investors or contractors— 2-bedroom home on a 1.1-acre lot with a metal roof, drilled well, minutes from Kinmount.

NEW LISTING!

INGOLDSBY RD $249,000
4-bedroom century home on a spacious corner lot with a covered front porch, metal roof, & just minutes from Kashagawigamog Lake.

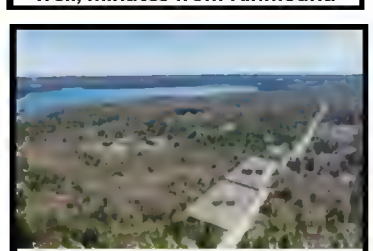
NEW LISTING!

SOYERS LAKE RD $224,900
50-acre parcel with a roughed-in driveway, cleared building site, hydro nearby, & a peaceful private setting minutes from town.

NEW LISTING!

KASHAGAWIGAMOG LAKE $200,000
0.9-acre waterfront parcel on sought-after 5-lake chain featuring 188' of natural shoreline, hydro nearby, & year-round road access.

HIGHWAY 118 $175,000
2-acre building lot 20 minutes from Haliburton with a gated entrance, cleared & level terrain, existing driveway, & excellent privacy & services at the lot line.



BUCKSLIDE RD $155,000 (EACH)
Two exceptional 2-acre building lots available, offering privacy, hydro & Bell at the lot line, year-round access, and close proximity to lakes & trails.

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Home of Haliburton Grassroots

MVPs!

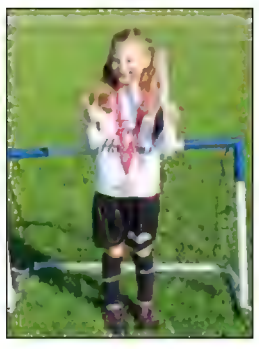
Arianna Washington
Pink 10-13

Erin McGregor
Yellow 10-13

Ezra Martens
Light Blue 10-11

Kennedy Draker
Teal 7-9

Logan Stancati
Green 7-9



Mckinley Macduff
White 4-6

Wells Seed
White 4-6

Ruby Russell
Solar yellow 7-9

Top: These players hammed it up for the camera. Bottom: A mad scramble for the ball in Haliburton Grassroots Soccer action last week. *Submitted.*

A return to play as weather improves

Following a frustrating round of game cancellations brought on by lingering wildfire smoke and oppressive heat, the sudden shift to cooler weather offered a much-needed sigh of relief for the entire soccer league.

The comfortable temperatures allowed coaches to safely push their young stars to test their limits and build new skills, completely free from the looming threat of heat stroke or overexertion.

As a result, these dedicated players - now fully settled into the routine and structure of weekly practices - showed incredible growth, reaching new milestones in both skill and sportsmanship.

Naturally, the enthusiastic cheers booming from the sidelines, coupled with the irresistible promise of a sweet ice cream treat after the final whistle, provided just the extra spark they needed to shine. *(Submitted)*

Show your community spirit!
Place your ad on this page.
Help make the kids smile.
aidan@thehighlander.ca

What's on

Irving and Honey save the day

It's 1932 in Niagara Falls, Canada, where the rum-running business is at its peak. Irving Bubbalowe and his daughter, Honey, have risked everything to open a gourmet restaurant. When their renowned singing chef fails to appear, their grand opening that night is placed in jeopardy. Meanwhile, a Chicago gangster has come looking for an illegal shipment of booze in the restaurant basement, trailed by a hot-blooded immigration officer and a suspicious teetotaling Mountie. Can Irving and Honey save the restaurant - and themselves - from the gangsters and the law? Find out in the latest Highlands Summer Festival offering, *Too Many Cooks,* which opened July 27 for five performances, including one matinee. Recommended for ages 13 and up. See more at highlandssummerfestival.on.ca *(Lisa Gervais)*

Top: left to right: Daniel Wheeler, Douglas Tindal, Jewel Sisson, and Jordan Kovacs on stage. Middle: left to right: Trevin Bain-Gross, Jim Dwyer, and Victoria Bingham acting in *Too Many Cooks.* Bottom: left to right: Alex Kocot and Tindal take to the stage of the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. *Photos by Wendy Evenden.*

44th Fenelon Falls
SHOW AND FLEA MARKET
CARS • TRUCKS • BIKES • SNOWMOBILES
A community fundraiser for the
Fenelon Falls & District Lions Club
LIONS
TO PRE REGISTER
JULY 31 - AUGUST 2
Burn Out & Live Band July 31, 6 pm
STREET MACHINES • ANTIQUES • REPLICARS • HEAVY TRUCKS
MOTORCYCLES • COMPACTS • CUSTOM TRUCKS AND VANS
SNOWMOBILES • TOTRODS • SPECIAL INTEREST VEHICLES
Fenelon Fairgrounds: 27 Veteran's Way, Fenelon Falls, ON
SHOW HOURS: Fri. 4 pm-10 pm • Sat. 10 am-5 pm • Sun. 10 am-4 pm • Set-up: Gates open 7 am daily for participants
GENERAL ADMISSION: Adults $15 • Children under 16 FREE • SHOW REGISTRATION: Show vehicle $15 • Vendor spot $50
AWARDS: Dash plaques (first 350 registrants) Plaques 1st & 2nd place • (Peer judging) • Sun. 3:30 pm
Proudly sponsored by:
YOUNG'S
Kawartha Lakes
Tim Hortons Fenelon Falls
Brasiers
Fenelon Falls
SHOW INFORMATION: Andy Bellwood 705-878-2020 • Jim Bellwood 613-229-4666 • Shawn Bellwood 705-738-7759
www.fenelonshow.ca Fenelon Falls Car Show & Flea Market Unserviced camping on-site for participants only

TOUR DE FOREST
ART SHOW AND SALE
Come celebrate our
20TH ANNIVERSARY!!!
• Meet 23 artists
• Enjoy the creativity, individuality & community
• Painting, pottery, glass, wood, fibre, jewelry
• One location, easy parking
• Indoor, air conditioned
• Free admission
Haliburton Legion Branch 129 | 719 Mountain St.
July 31st 4 to 8 pm Opening preview
Aug 1st 10 to 8 pm
Aug 2nd 11 to 4 pm
ALL WELCOME!
www.haliburtontourdeforest.com

What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed.
Tuesdays: Cadets after school starts at 5 p.m., meeting starts at 6 p.m. Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Darts league 7 p.m. start.
Wednesdays: Office and clubroom closed
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month, March to December; ladies auxiliary meeting last Thursday of the month, February to November.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prize each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets are $2 per draw; fun darts at 4:30 p.m. onwards; 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday closed; Tuesday 5-9 p.m.; Wednesday closed; Thursday 3-6 p.m., Friday 3-7 p.m., Saturday/Sunday closed.

Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Friday** with full menu and daily special including liver lovers' **Tuesday**.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 9:30 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: every other **Friday**
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 10 a.m. to noon, Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Monday: open 7 to 10 p.m. Darts Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 at 7 p.m.; Mexican train dominos at 7 p.m.; Aug. 10 painting class at 10 a.m.
Tuesday: closed, special events only. Executive meeting Aug. 4 at 7 p.m.; general meeting Aug. 11 at 7 p.m.; exercise club Aug. 4, 11 and 18 at 1 p.m.
Wednesday: open 2 to 10 p.m. Darts Aug. 5, 12, 19 and 26 at 2 p.m.; Ladies auxiliary quick supper from 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Thursday: open 2 to 10 p.m. Horseshoes July 30, Aug. 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 7 p.m.; HHHS social recreation Aug. 13 and 27 at 10 a.m.; Painting class with Luann Aug. 20.
Friday: open 2 to 11 p.m. Wings and jam session July 31, Aug. 14 and 28 from 5 to 8 p.m.; Fish and chips Aug. 7 and 21; Seniors lunch Aug. 28 from noon to 1 p.m.
Saturday: open 2 to 9 p.m. Meat draw Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 3 p.m.; trivia night Aug. 1 at 6:30 p.m.; karaoke Aug. 22 at 8 p.m.; Dorothy Knight Golf Tournament Aug. 29 at Lakeside Golf Course.
Sunday: closed, special events only. Ladies auxiliary breakfast Aug. 9 at 11 a.m.

Branch 566 Cardiff

Hours: Sunday and Monday 3 to 6 p.m. and **Thursday** 3 to 9 p.m.
Events: Breakfast on the first **Sunday** of each month from 9 to 11 a.m.; euchre on the second **Sunday** of each month at 12:30 p.m.
Shuffleboard every **Thursday** from 7 to 9 p.m.
Music and jam session ever second **Saturday** of the month from 1 to 4 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Branch 441 Kinmount

Mondays: Bid euchre at 1 p.m.
Tuesdays: Closed
Wednesdays: Mixed darts at 7:30 p.m.
Thursdays: Closed
Fridays: Clubroom opens at 4 p.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with play beginning at 6:45 p.m. Supper specials starting at 5 p.m.
Saturdays: Clubroom opens at 3 p.m. Meat draw at 5:30 p.m.

EVENTS

The Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank is hosting its Christmas in July fundraiser all month long. Stop by the facility at 26 York St. every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to noon to "cool off with Christmas music." They're asking for new, unwrapped toys or cash donations to be dropped off at CanoeFM or the food bank, with e-transfers to 4csfoodbank@gmail.com. There will also be donation boxes at Foodland and Todd's Independent. Contact Lewis Ewing at 705-457-5831 or louiseanneewing@gmail.com.

July 30, 7 p.m. Time is running out to see Highlands Summer Festival's performance of *Too Many Cooks*. This penultimate show runs at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, with a matinee July 31 at 2 p.m.

July 31, 1 p.m. The Minden branch of the Haliburton County Public Library is holding an afternoon screening of Paddington in Peru in the Welch Room. Light refreshments will be provided.

July 31, 4 to 8 p.m. Opening preview of the 20th annual Tour De Forest, being held at the Haliburton Legion. Featuring works from more than 20 local artists. The show also runs Aug. 1 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Aug. 2 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Aug. 1, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Haliburton Lions' volunteer toll bridge day. Volunteers will be stationed across from the library on Maple Avenue. All donations are used to support our community. For more information, visit www.haliburtonlions.com.

Aug. 1, 7 to 11 p.m. Midnight Madness in downtown Haliburton. Hosted by the Haliburton BIA, don't miss out as some of your favourite stores hold special sales, with live music, food and fun for the whole family on Highland Street.

Aug. 1, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Schoolhouse fine craft pop-up market at Blackbird Pottery. The studio is located at the historic Donald schoolhouse (5843 Gelert Rd.) Also running Aug. 2 – rain or shine both days.

Aug. 2, 2 p.m. Canadian singer Leisa Way brings her Wayward Wind Band to Haliburton for 'Sweet Dreams', a tribute to the late Patsy Cline. There are five shows scheduled nightly until Aug. 6. For tickets visit tickets.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca.

Aug. 4, 10 a.m. Free guided tour of the Haliburton Sculpture Forest. Meet at the kiosk in the Haliburton School of Art + Design parking lot at 297 College Dr. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Tours are held every Tuesday through July and August rain or shine and can take up to two hours. By donation.

Aug. 4, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Author Phyllis Bordo is hosting a meet and greet and book signing at Master's Book Store in Haliburton. The retired teacher will be doing readings from her 'Lilly Esther' book series. All are welcome.

Aug. 4, 4 to 8 p.m. Haliburton Rotary Summerfest in Head Lake Park. There will be free kids activities, face painting, cotton candy and popcorn; and ice cream; beef on a bun and hot dogs will be available to purchase. Music in the Park features Ryan Van Lee, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Aug. 4, 7 p.m. Do you want to learn more about gardening? Join the Minden & District Horticultural Society at the Minden Community Centre. Guest speaker Anna Mizyn will discuss shade gardening. Monthly society meeting to follow. All are welcome.

Have a non-profit event you want advertised? email mike@thehighlander.ca.

CANOE
100.9 & 97.1 FM
HALIBURTON • MINDEN
Radio Bingo
Join us every Tuesday night @ 6pm for the County's #1 Game
Play on Aug 4th
& Win up to $2,400 with Triple Bingo!
Have fun while helping. It's a win – win!
Since 2013 Canoe FM has donated more than $500,000 to approximately 42 local not-for-profits
Canoe FM – Working Toward a Stronger Community
www.canoefm.com
#M851545

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON. EVERY SEASON

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills proposes to consider a by-law to stop up, close, and convey parcel of land more particularly described as follows:

1. **File No. PLRA2025102:** The Original Allowance for a Road, Part of Lot 76 and Part of Sixth Street Registered Plan No. 172 and is identified as Allister Street and locally known as McKay Street, lying in front of Property Roll #4616-010-000-59300, Geographic Township of Anson

The above noted application is available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

AND TAKE NOTICE that Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will consider a By-law giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance at the Regular Meeting of August 13, 2026.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced application, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than end of day on August 12, 2026.

AND TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned at their earliest convenience.

Donna Sisson
Clerical Assistant, Building, By-Law and Planning
705-286-1260 Ext. 509
dsisson@mindenhills.ca

What's on

Art popping up for holiday long weekend

By Lisa Gervais and Adam Frisk

The historic grounds of the Old Donald Schoolhouse will come alive this Civic Holiday weekend as it plays host to the Schoolhouse Pop-Up Market.

Running Aug. 1 and 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the grassroots rural market offers "a premier summer road-trip destination for fine craft and contemporary art lovers," organizer and curator, April Gates, said. The potter added the open-air event features a collection of 12 artists and makers hailing from across the Haliburton Highlands and neighbouring counties.

"Set against a charming backdrop built in the late 19th century, the market creates an intentional bridge between the region's pioneering history and its vibrant modern arts culture," Gates said.

She added visitors can explore a diverse spectrum of creative mediums in the wooded schoolyard.

The curated showcase includes one-of-a-kind treasures across 10 distinct disciplines: ceramics, fine woodwork, jewellery, textiles, botanicals, preserves, sculpture, blooms, print, paintings and vintage. Light refreshments will be available on-site. "Bringing contemporary fine craft into a historic rural space creates a unique sensory experience," Gates said. "It gives visitors a chance to meet the makers directly, hear their stories, and take home a piece of authentic regional heritage."

The venue is at 5843 Gelert Rd., Haliburton. Admission is free with donations collected for northern fire aid. Rain or shine. For more information visit blackbirdpottery.ca.

Tour de Forest

The Tour de Forest moves to the Haliburton Legion this coming weekend (July 31, Aug. 1 and Aug. 2).

Artist and organizer, Charlene McConnell, said the decision to move from studios was made out of a desire for the artists to celebrate the tour's 20th anniversary together.

"By the time you put a studio tour together, everyone is too busy to see each other's work," McConnell said. "This way, we'll get to know each other a lot better."

The new format brings several benefits, the artist noted. With high gas prices, the single location offers a "one-stop shop" with ample parking. It also helps eliminate the threat of wind and rain playing havoc with frames and canvases. McConnell said that even the traditional driving tours can suffer if the weather is too nice, as people prefer staying on docks over driving all day.

Several artists will host demonstrations, including John Proctor, who returns to showcase his drum-making. Visitors can also view photographs of the artists' creative workspaces and chat directly with creators.

The anniversary lineup features a wide range of mediums such as woodworking, pottery, and painting. Attendees will get to meet three of the tour's original founding members: Barbara Peel, Jane Selbie, and Tom Green.

Ceramic artist Lesley McInally will be at the Schoolhouse pop-up. *Submitted.*

The legion will feature a dedicated sitting area where people can relax with complimentary coffee and an anniversary cake.

The event kicks off with a preview evening on July 31, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and continues through Saturday and Sunday. Entry is free for the public.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911 • AFTER-HOURS MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY DIAL 1-866-856-3247 • WWW.MINDENHILLS.CA

S.G. NESBITT MEMORIAL ARENA

• Drop off your child for our *Drop-in of the Day* program running next week on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Tuesday will be a crafty day, Wednesday will be spent making and eating in the kitchen, and Thursday is free play in the gymnasium or outside! Register beforehand online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation under "Other Drop-in" or sign-up day of.

• There is still space available in the two weeks of camp that are occurring in August at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena and Cultural Centre. Register online or in person at the Arena front desk.

THE 2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION IS APPROACHING

To register and/or confirm your information visit the Elections Ontario Register Voter Portal www.registertovoteon.ca.

Election staff is available for assistance at the Administration Office (7 Milne St.) Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (excluding holidays). Visit our website for upcoming extended hours.

BID OPPORTUNITIES

The Township of Minden Hills currently has the following tenders available:

• RFP No. RDS 26-04 Minden Library Retaining Wall
Closing date: August 12, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.

See Bid Opportunities on our website for more information.

REPORTING ISSUES

Reporting issues such as road condition or maintenance needs can be done by calling 705-286-3144 Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. After hours emergencies can be reported by calling 1-866-856-3247.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• As the *Shoreline Disappears* by glass artist Brad Copping, will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until September 19. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

• Join us on Friday, July 31 at 1:00 p.m. for an afternoon screening of *Paddington in Peru (2024).* Presented in partnership with the Haliburton County Public Library. Free admission. Light refreshments will be provided, and guests are welcome to bring their own snacks.

• *Miijim: Traditional Foods of the Anishinaabeg*, on loan from MUSE: Lake of the Woods Museum in Kenora will be on display at the Cultural Centre until August 29.

• The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village, and Nature's Place is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. for tours and self-guided activities! Stop by for drop-in activities for children each day from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
This week: Tues – memories showcase, Wed – Oobleck slime, Thurs – felt woven baskets, Fri – pipe cleaner flowers, Sat – rag quilt.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

• August 13 – Regular Council Meeting

• September 10 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Township is currently recruiting for the following positions. Please visit our website for complete descriptions.

• Student Arena Attendants
• Student Recreation Attendants
• Roads Seasonal Labourer
• Waste Disposal Site Attendant
• Waste Facilities Operator

CONFIDENTIAL PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

August 22 from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Scotch Line Landfill.

Protect your personal information, reduce clutter, and safely dispose of old documents such as bank statements, tax records, bills, and other sensitive paperwork.

We also encourage residents to bring a non-perishable food or toiletry donation to support Minden Community Food Centre and help neighbours in need.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON, K0M 2K0 | Phone: 705-286-1260 • Toll Free 1-844-277-1260 • Fax: 705-286-4917

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HANDYMAN – Carpentry, General Repairs. Call or Text Doug at 416-889-8534

ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS CHIMNEY – Repairs, installs, sweeping (140), parging. WETT certified for your safety. Call Dave at 705-457-6848 or 519-820-6369

HIGHLAND GREENERIES - We take care of your gardens so you can enjoy them. Garden Services: Garden Cleanups (Spring & Fall), Mulching, Weeding & Edging, Pruning & Seasonal Cutbacks, Ongoing Garden Maintenance. Also Offering: Spring/ Fall Yard Cleanups, Leaf Removal & Raking. Proudly serving the Haliburton Highlands and surrounding areas. Highlandgreeneries@hotmail.com 705-455-2813 / 705-455-2156

GENERAL CARPENTRY – 40 years of experience. Small jobs welcome. Free quote. Call Bill at 705-372-3778

M.A.H. UPHOLSTERY – Boat Covers & Repairs. Boat Interiors & Repairs. ATV, Sea-Doo, Snowmobile and Motorcycle seats. Over 40 years of experience. Call 705-457-0726

SERVICES – Cottage Maintenance, general repairs, staining, painting, roofing & carpentry. Call Mike at 705-457-6365

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PAINTER - Professional, experienced, and dependable painter available for residential and commercial projects - from a single room to an entire home or office. Minor repairs included at no additional charge. Decks! Power washed and stained. Call or text 647-213-2875 for a free estimate or call 705-447-2213

MUSICIAN AVAILABLE ACOUSTIC GUITAR / VOCALIST available for private parties, bars and corporate events. Songs ranging from the 70's / 80's / 90's to current hits. I have played the Rockcliffe (Moore Falls) / Graz (Bobcaygeon) / and this year I am also playing Kinmount Music in the Park / Taste of the Kingsway (in Toronto for a 2nd year – 500+ people) and many other events and bars. Call or text - 416.580.3195 for more info and to get the conversation started

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Woodfired Pizza Business
Own a seasonal pizza truck & catering business. Into the Blue comes fully equipped and ready for the 2026 season. Contact info@abbeygardens.ca

FOR SALE

FOR SALE – 2015 GMC Siera Single Cab, $8,000. certified or B/O. Utility Box with 2 side doors, shelves and locks. $1,000. firm. Call Ray at 705-306-4986 or 705-306-5202

FOR SALE – Spacious quality Condo in Haliburton. 2 beds, 2 baths, $635,000. For info call Drew Staniforth, Sales Representative, Remax Professionals North, Brokerage, 705-535-1689.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE – Ontario Garlic & Scapes, Garlic & Scape Powders, Garlic Sauces, Spreads, Jams, Jellies, Pickles, SEED GARLIC. 1434 Kashagawigamog Lake Road, 2.2 km from County Road 21, Minden 705-286-1617

FOR SALE GUILFORD FIREWOOD – Nicely cut and split, ready to burn. $140. per face cord – pick up.
Delivery available, call 705-754-3034

FOR SALE - Haliburton Micromeadows Native Plant Nursery - Open Fri-Mon, 10am-4pm at 1274 Lochlin Rd., Minden (located on private property). We carry a wide variety of native Ontario perennials, grasses, small trees and shrubs for gardens and habitat projects. Visit haliburton micromeadows.ca or follow us on Facebook @haliburton micromeadows

FOR RENT

FOR RENT OR FOR SALE –
Granite View Condo, 4 Lake Ave. Haliburton. Beautiful two bedroom, two bathroom, top floor, corner unit, providing stunning views of Head Lake. Five minute walk to the Lakefront and Town amenities. Open concept floor plan. Includes one indoor parking space, storage locker. Freshly painted, radiant heat, Hydro, Water and Stainless appliances. Rent at $3,000 per month or purchase for $560,000 Contact Dan at 705-455-7568 or e-mail to roxboroughdan@gmail.com

FOR RENT – Warehouse / Storage Space, located at 81 Mallard Road, Unit B, Main floor warehouse available for rent starting July 1st. Equipped with 2 Washrooms, Large main floor space, overhead mezzanine storage and commercial delivery garage door.

FOR RENT

This space was once set up as a commercial cooking space and a storage facility, but could easily be converted to: a Paint-shop, storage or office space. Call 705-457-2375 with enquiries.

ESTATE SALE

ESTATE SALE – 1094 Seventh Lane, Minden, Hunter Creek Estates. Saturday, Aug 1st Sunday, Aug 2nd & Monday, Aug 3rd from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Furniture, Cedar Chests, Antique Furniture and lots more.

YARD SALE

YARD SALE – 27 Sancayne Street, Saturday, August 1st from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Rain or Shine! Great selection of ladies clothing, golf shoes, leather boots, purses. 7 pair of Junior Boys hockey skates, in new condition. DVD;s plus lots of stuff.

YARD SALE – 11219 County Road 503, Gooderham, Friday, July 31st Saturday, Aug 1st Sunday, Aug 2nd Monday Aug 3rd from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Something for everyone.

YARD SALE – 1135 Mervyn Beatty Lane, Saturday, Aug 1st Sunday, Aug 2nd Monday Aug 3rd from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Antiques, kitchen items. Small appliancies and much more.

YARD SALE – 1017 Miners' Bay Road, Saturday, Aug 1st from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Canadiana, Antiques, post cards, old records, shells, rocks & minerals. Oil lamps, coins, stamps, first day covers, stereo cards, View Master 50" diameter, solid oak round table with set of 4 chairs.1860 Jelly Cupboard, American civil war books & artifacts. Old books,

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday
Happy 90th Birthday to Marian Langdon!
The friends and family of Marian Langdon are delighted to announce her 90th birthday on July 31st. A cherished member of our community, Marian inspires us all with her warmth, kindness and positive spirit.
Happy Birthday, Marian! We love you!

YARD SALE

china, collectibles, household items. Set of 4 snow tires on rims (235/55R17 993) c. 1947Model 2NFord Ferguson Tractor in running condition. Seasoned rough cut planks & boards, some live edge. Mint condition Ladies KHS Bike with 17" aluminum alloy frame, disc brakes, less than 100 kms, and much more!

HELP WANTED

We have built and owned a five-bedroom cottage in Haliburton on Redstone Lake for the past twenty five years. As an elderly couple in good health and energetic, we are looking for a husband and wife team to look after our cottage - the wife looking after the inside and the husband focusing on the outdoors. We would like our place to be visited once a week through out the year to accomplish tasks of cleaning, arranging, maintenance, and other requirements directed by us from time to time. We will gladly consider any reasonable expectations of compensation. Please call Suresh Bhalla at 416 904 6345

HELP WANTED

REPUTABLE BUILDING CONTRACTOR looking for a person with Carpentry Experience. Must have valid driver's license. Please call 705-754-4603.

HELP WANTED- Mark's Restaurant is hiring a part time server, must be 18 years of age or older, able to work evenings. 705-286-1818 and ask for Wilson or email marksrestaurant@icloud.com

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J & D TOWING & SERVICE STATION - will pay top dollar for scrap cars. We also provide towing services as well as flat bed. Call Jim 705-447-2113

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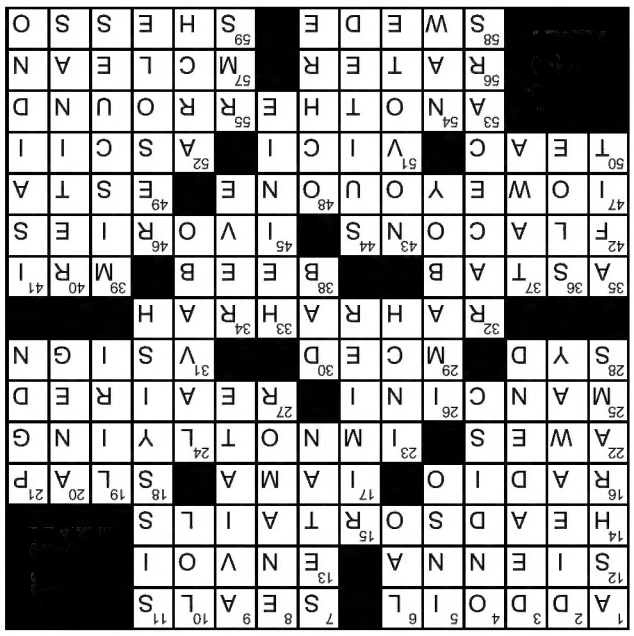

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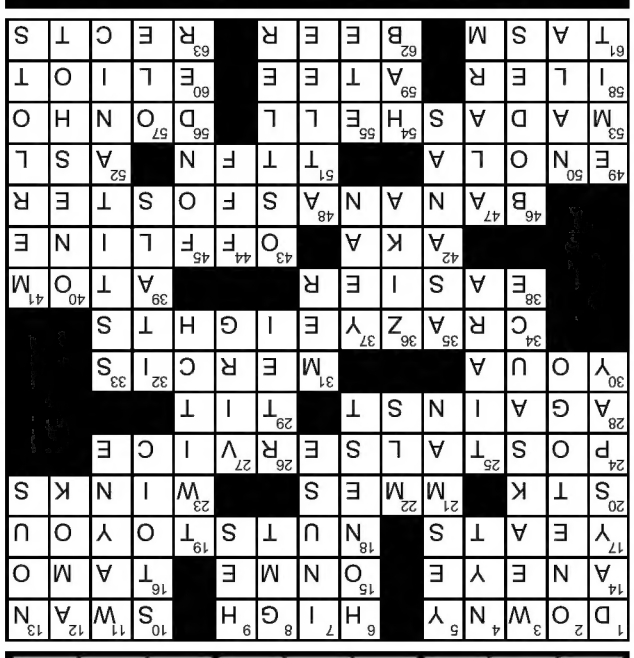

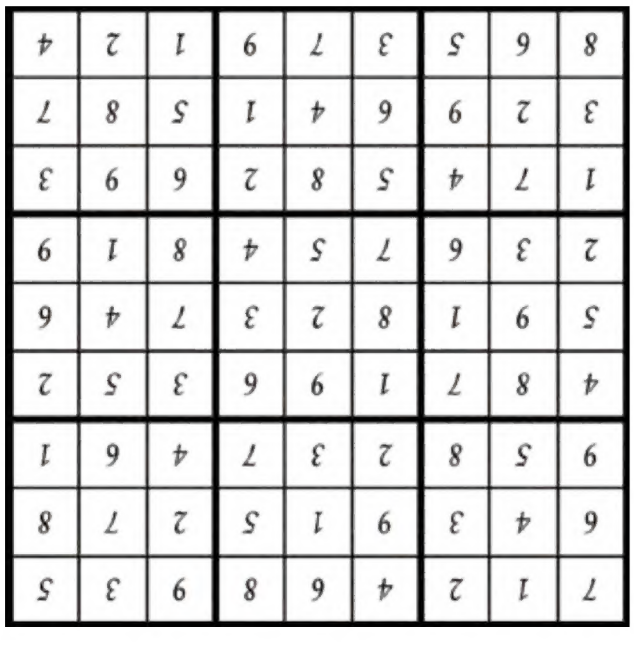

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Kelly Jennifer Gresko-Hutchings

Passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Sunday, July 19, 2026 after a courageous fight with cancer at the age of 58.

Loving wife of Avery. Dear mother of Johnna and Brady Kent, Willow and Sam Moran and Dawson. Loving Grammy to Ava-May and Grace. Dear daughter of John and Maria Gresko and sister of Stuart. Daughter-in-law of Joan Hutchings and the late Victor and sister-in-law to Larry and predeceased by Jeff. Fondly remembered by her family and friends.

The family would like to thank Beth Archibald, the doctors, nurses and staff at the Haliburton Hospital for the care and compassion.

A Celebration of Kelly's Life will be held on a date and time to be announced.

Memorial Donations to Snowflake Meadows Rescue (by cheque only) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

HELP WANTED

ROYAL HOMES

Part-Time Client Services & Administrative Assistant

Royal Homes Cottage Country — Minden, Ontario

Job Type: Part-time, on-site
Pay: $19 to $22 per hour based on qualifications

Royal Homes Cottage Country is seeking a dependable, organized and personable Part-Time Client Services & Administrative Assistant to support our Minden Sales Centre.

This is a client-facing position. The successful candidate will often be the first person to welcome prospective clients, answer their questions and help them take the next step toward building a new home or cottage.

The position combines reception, customer service, client follow-up, file organization and general office administration. We are looking for someone who communicates professionally, pays close attention to details and can keep multiple client files and follow-up items organized. Working knowledge of Microsoft Office and/or Google Workspace preferred.

Please send Resume to Tan@royalhomescottagecountry.com

(Please note only qualified candidates will be contacted)

HELP WANTED

Haliburton

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton
Requires
Multiple Citizen Appointments to the Joint Accessibility Committee

The County of Haliburton benefits from the involvement of local residents who help County Council make decisions about the programs and services provided to our citizens. It is County Council's desire for appointments to the various boards and committees to be reflective of the demographic and geographical makeup of the County of Haliburton. Currently the Committee is comprised of one elected County Council representative from each of the member municipalities. Qualified applicants to the Joint Accessibility Committee will be:

- At least 18 years old
- A Canadian Citizen
- A resident of Haliburton County
- A public person living with a disability

Applications

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and application form. Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca **no later than 4:30pm on August 7, 2026.**

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

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Check us out at www.walkershvac.com

Email your resume today to info@walkershvac.com

We thank all applicants for their interest, however only those candidates selected for interviews will be contacted.

NOTICE

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at 83 Maple Ave. Unit 7A in Haliburton Halco Plaza, behind Castle Antiques. For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

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Highlander puzzles

Way to Go!

by Barbara Olson
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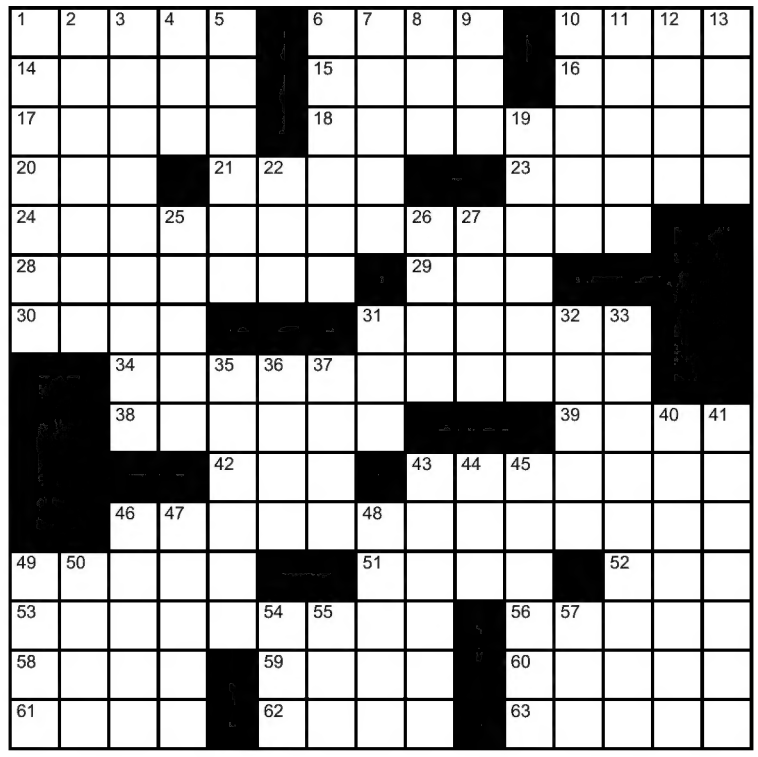

Across

1 Fabric softener brand
6 Stove setting for boiling
10 Classic ballet lake
14 Keep ___ on (watch over)
15 "Got this round"
16 "___ Shanter" (Burns poem)
17 "The Second Coming" poet
18 "No way, get lost!"
20 Investor's buy: Abbr.
21 Lille ladies: Abbr.
23 You-know-what I-mean signals
24 Mail delivery body
28 Opposing
29 Chickadee's kin
30 "I'll give ___ hint"
31 French thank-yous
34 Popular discarding game
38 Kindergarten, compared to college, for most
39 Bit of interest to Bohr
42 Alias letters
43 Unable to surf
46 New Orleans fruit dessert served flambé
49 Sleuth girl of film, ___ Holmes
51 Texter's "cheerio"
52 Deaflympics worker's skill
53 Isn't gonna take it anymore
56 "Beautiful Kauai" singer
58 "The Sopranos" actor Robert
59 "It suits you to ___"
60 Writer George, pseudonym of Mary Ann Evans
61 Penal colony island of Aus.
62 "___ me!" (request for more suds)
63 Domino shapes: Abbr.

Down

1 Per diem compensation
2 Words after "two down"
3 Extremely lame, in slang
4 "All the news that's fit to print" initials
5 Good hire for a controlling boss
6 Like a polygraph passer
7 Not vacant
8 Clock setting standard: Abbr.
9 "___ So Fine" (Chiffons hit)
10 Poker-faced
11 The Great One's first name
12 Out of control
13 Toi et moi
19 Little jerk
22 Metric fifths of tsps.
25 Pageant headwear
26 U.S. East coast hwy.
27 Shenandoah Natl. Park's state
31 Mal de ___ (sea sickness)
32 Right-leaning letters: Abbr.
33 Capt. Smith's ill-fated vessel
35 The tree and the warrior, for two
36 Virus named after a Ugandan forest
37 Bear young sheep
40 Like a do-or-die deal
41 Cab alternatives
43 Horse farm hand
44 Liszt's loud, loud, loud
45 More loving
46 Acts as an omen
47 Elicit a gasp
48 Town 90 km. north of Medicine Hat, Alberta
49 Throw off, in a way
50 CBC journalist ___ Ayed
54 Centre Bell NHLer, to fans
55 Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day season
57 Lego inventor ___ Kirk Christiansen

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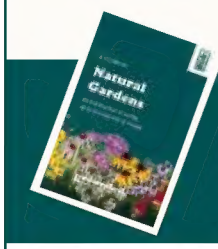
and shorelines
designed and installed



For a free guide to
natural gardens in
Haliburton County,
visit groundedgardens.ca.

7								
			9			2	7	8
				3			6	1
				9	6			
5		1	8				4	
		6			4	8	1	
			5			6		3
3				4	1			7
8			3		9			4

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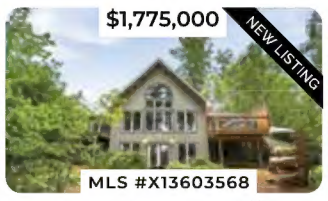
DRAG LAKE
$3,900,000

MLS #X13521294
BED 5 | BATH 5+3

KENNISIS LAKE
$1,775,000 NEW LISTING

MLS #X13603568
BED 2+2 | BATH 3+1

HWY 118, HALIBURTON
Sold

MLS #X13520448
BED 3 | BATH 2+1

KENNISIS LAKE
Sold

MLS #X13432064
BED 4 | BATH 3

GRACE LAKE
Sold

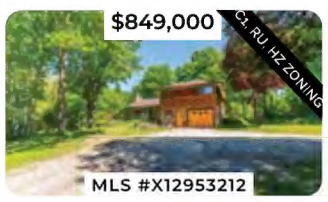
MLS #X13505950
BED 3 | BATH 1

GULL LAKE
Sold

MLS #X13502142
BED 3 | BATH 1

GOODERHAM LAKE
$874,500

MLS #X12954018
BED 3+2 | BATH 2

HIGHWAY 35, MINDEN
$849,000 CL RU HZ ZONING

MLS #X12953212
BED 3 | BATH 2

BARNUM LAKE
$775,000

MLS #X13467094
BED 3 | BATH 1+1

KUSHOG LAKE
$730,000

MLS #X13467324
BED 3 | BATH 1

LONG LAKE
$699,900

MLS #X13034386
BED 6 | BATH 1+1

KENNISIS RIVER
$695,000

MLS #X13135162
BED 3 | BATH 1

KENNISIS LAKE
$668,000

MLS #X13571826
BED 3 | BATH 1+1

BIG BROTHER LAKE
$659,900

MLS #13545278
BED 3 | BATH 1+1

DRAG LAKE
$659,900

MLS #X13577852
BED 3 | BATH 1

REYNOLDS ROAD
$650,000

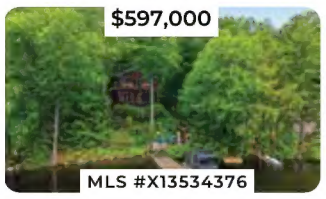
MLS #X13185368
BED 3 | BATH 2+1

SOUTH PORTAGE LAKE
Sold

MLS #X13420872
BED 2 | BATH 1

HALIBURTON
Sold

MLS #X13481332
BED 2 | BATH 2

ALLEN LAKE
$597,000

MLS #X13534376
BED 3 | BATH 2

WEST SETTLEMENT RD
$555,000

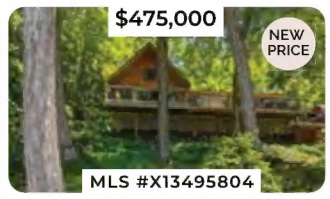
MLS #X13163216
BED 2 | BATH 1

SILVER BEACH
Sold

MLS #X13113762
BED 2 | BATH 2

KUSHOG LAKE, HWY 35
$489,900

MLS #X12604142
BED 3 | BATH 2

ALLEN LAKE
$475,000 NEW PRICE

MLS #X13495804
BED 3 | BATH 1

MONROCK LAKE
$475,000

MLS #X13177210
BED 3 | BATH 1

LITTLE STRAGGLE LAKE
Sold

MLS #X13222622
BED 3 | BATH 1

COUNTY ROAD 503
$430,000

MLS #X13111224
BED 2 | BATH 1

GLAMOR LAKE ROAD
$398,500

MLS #X13122288
BED 2 | BATH 1

PROVIDENCE DR
$395,000 NEW LISTING

MLS #X13573000
BED 2 | BATH 1+1

WENONA LAKE ROAD
$319,000 NEW LISTING

MLS #X13567494
BED 2 | BATH 1

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BOUGHNER RD
$199,900
5.31 Acres | MLS #X13061996

Brady Lake Rd
BRADY LAKE
$195,000
0.48 Acres | MLS #X13129990

Eagle Lake
STILLS RD
$145,000
1.21 Acres | MLS #X13118448

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